



# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

March 2013

**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

**81st AGM Weekend**

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel**

**Athlone**

**April 27/28th**

**See Page 7**

**Dave Deane EI9FBB**

**1st EI 5 Band**

**Worked All Zones Award**

**See Page 11**

**January IRTS**

**80m Counties Contest**

**Results page 26**

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## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>				
Dublin	1100	7.123	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Ger EI4GXB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK
Clare	1200	3.650	SSB	Ger EI4GXB, Sean EI7CD
Mayo	2000	145.600 - 433.450	FM	70.375 - 50.450
			FM	John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF, Eddie EI3FFB
<b>Monday</b>				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB
Louth	2000	145.675		Thos EI2JD, Anthony EI2KC, Jim EI2HJB
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB
North Cork	2000	430.925	FM	Lisa EI9GSB

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## Committee Members 2012/13

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 Ger McNamara EI4GXB  
 Stephen Wright EI5DD  
 Dave O'Connor EI6AL  
 Brendan Minish EI6IZ  
 John Ronan EI7IG  
 John McCarthy EI8JA  
 Jim Holohan EI4HH

## **40 Metre News Frequency is now 7123kHz**

**1100 Sundays**

### ***When is my membership due for renewal?***

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published.

Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use [www.irts.ie/renew](http://www.irts.ie/renew) to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the IRTS Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down.

Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

**Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer**  
[memrecords@irts.ie](mailto:memrecords@irts.ie)

### **Online Access to Echo Ireland**

If you would like to have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards and receive new issues of Echo Ireland by way of electronic download instead of in hard copy, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to:  
[memrecords@irts.ie](mailto:memrecords@irts.ie)

### **Silent Key. Brian Evans, EI9KE**

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Brian Evans, EI9KE. Brian lived in Lecarrow, Co. Westmeath. He passed away in mid January. Our deepest sympathy to his wife & family.  
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

### **Silent Key Pat Hawker G3VA**

Radio amateurs around the world will be saddened to hear of the death on 21 February of Pat Hawker G3VA.

Pat, who was 90 years of age, wrote the Technical Topics column for fifty years. The first of these columns was published in the then RSGB Bulletin in April 1958 which in January 1968 was renamed Radio Communications.

Compendia of items from the Technical Topics columns were published in at least four volumes starting in 1968 and these books are on the shelves of many radio amateurs worldwide. They form an invaluable source of reference on an extraordinarily wide range of topics.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to Pat's son Philip and his daughter Virginia as well as to his extended family and friends. Amateur radio has lost one of its legends.

May he rest in peace.

### **Silent Key Gavin Halpin EI4J**

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of Gavin Halpin EI4J, on February 4th 2013 aged 94.

Gavin was one of the last of the original Irish Radio Experimenters.

In his 95th year, he was first licenced at the age of 17 in December 1935 at his family home in Rathmines along with his brother Fintan Halpin.

In 1947 Gavin moved to Drogheda where he took up the callsign EI9P.

In 1972, his other brother Frank, passed away, from whom he took over the EI4J callsign and held it for the remaining years of his life.

Gavin passed on the love of the hobby to his son Shane EI4GE who will inherit the Halpin radio legacy.

He is survived by his wife Aileen and his 10 children.

May he rest in peace.

### **Input for Echo Ireland to**

**[ei4bz@eircom.net](mailto:ei4bz@eircom.net)**

**087-6290574**

### **Silent Key Paul Myhal EI9IV**

Paul, who died suddenly in January 2012 aged just 45 had an interest in radio that spanned thirty years.

The relationships he forged in the course of his amateur career ultimately informed his mind on many issues and deepened his interest in the field of communications technology generally.

Born in Canvey Island, Essex, he followed on his City and Guilds with an Honours Degree in Communications Engineering from the University of Plymouth.

Following graduation he moved to Ireland and succeeded in obtaining a temporary placement with Cable and Wireless Ireland.

When RTE Networks began recruitment for the rollout of TG4, Paul moved to a permanent position there and travelled all over the country with the crew installing the new system. Speaking of that time he said that in the pre-Celtic Tiger era, getting something to eat at night in some of the remoter areas proved challenging!!!

He took immense pleasure in the successful TG4 rollout and he acknowledged that the infrastructure therein was second to none.

Following a period as a technological consultant, Paul joined Vodafone and remained with that company for the final ten years of his life.

While there he headed up the Product Services and Terminals team who were at the forefront of many technical break-throughs during his tenure.

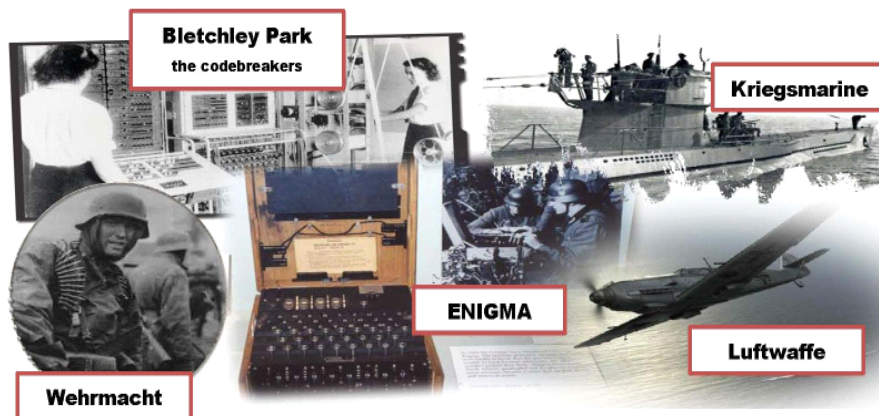
He will be remembered as a loving husband, a keen gardener, a committed triathlete and a dedicated radio amateur who got the ultimate from every day of his all-too-short life.

He lived his life by the maxim eloquently expressed by Tagore:

I slept and dreamt that life was joy,  
I awoke and found that life was duty,  
I acted and behold that duty was joy.

We extend our sincerest sympathies to Paul's wife, Marguerite and his extended family on his untimely death.





<http://www.EnigmaWorldCodeGroup.com>



## THE NEW SOCIAL-NETWORKING SITE FOR HAMS

**QST!:** If you like Morse code, you'll like Enigma code, too. Use a free website and an award-winning German WWII Enigma code simulator to send and receive social-networking messages to old friends and new ones worldwide.

- The webmaster (TT) is a computer professional who has designed the site to work smoothly and seamlessly.
- The instructions were written by a professional technical writer (BK) so that they are clear, accurate, and easy to understand. He is a ham-radio guy.
- The executive director, Dirk Rijmenants, wrote the simulator program and is the driving force behind this project. He is a ham-radio guy, too, in Belgium.

All of the encrypting and decrypting documents and instructions you will need are in the public domain and open to anyone. EWCG is a hobby group, not a secret club. Even though we cannot presently use Enigma over the ham bands, I'm hoping that we might be able to do so in the future. I'm working on it!

So get a friend, and both of you join the group at <http://www.EnigmaWorldCodeGroup.com>. That way you will have a ready-made partner for your first practice message. After that, it's up to you. Click on anyone in the group, and send them a message. Use the Q signals if they are a ham! Have fun with this new/old technology—Enigma.

## Renewal of Amateur Station Licences



Commission for  
Communications Regulation

In June 2009 the Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Station Licence) Regulations 2009 came into force which changed individual Amateur Station Licences from annual licences to lifetime licences.

Whilst the licences are lifetime licences, under the regulations licensees are required to confirm the details of their licence to ComReg every five years.

ComReg will begin advising licensees how to comply with this requirement in 2014.

However ComReg has yet to determine how this process will take place but will endeavour to make it as smooth as possible.

Issued February 2013

## Syllabus for Amateur Radio Licence

Earlier this year we reported that Com-Reg had published a revised version of the Amateur Station Licence Guidelines.

The new guidelines include changes to the regulations for land mobile and maritime mobile operation that require some amendments to the examination syllabus.

An updated syllabus is now available at [www.irts.ie/downloads](http://www.irts.ie/downloads) which includes the changes consequent on the publication of the revised guidelines. The new syllabus comes into effect immediately.

Candidates are advised to obtain a copy of the document "Studying for the Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate" - which is on the IRTS downloads page - and which includes the examination syllabus along with details of the examination format, suggestions for study material and a sample paper showing how the multiple choice questions are presented.

## International Lighthouse Weekend

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend does not take place until the August the 17th and 18th and already 473 stations in 47 counties have indicated their intended participation.

If you are planning an activation, please check the web site to ensure that no one else has plans to activate the same lighthouse.

To date EI entries are:

EI0CAR/P from Inishowen Head West/Strove Lighthouse.

EI0LHL from Loop Head Lighthouse by Limerick Radio Club

EI4GZB from Hook Head Lighthouse

EI9HQ from Hook Head Lighthouse

EI13CLAN from Inisheer Lighthouse by Galway Radio Experimenters Club

More about this fun event is on-line at [www.illw.net](http://www.illw.net)

## Restoration of Grey Point Fort



### Special Event Station

A 48 hour special event station, starting at 1700hrs UTC 31st May 2013 to 1700hrs UTC 2nd June 2013, will commemorate the restoration of Grey Point Fort Crawfordsburn, NI.

Grey Point Fort is owned by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency within the Department of Environment and is open to the public.

In the past three years Grey Point Amateur Radio Society members have created a WW1 and WW2 Military Memorabilia Museums and an unique WW2 Military radio museum consisting of over one hundred radios and communication equipment used in the second world war and other conflicts.

The fort is open to the public from 1000-1700 daily

The Special Event will be a 48 hour event starting at 1700 31st May 2013 to 1700 2nd June 2013.

The event is not a contest. It is an opportunity for all radio amateurs to make point to point contact on the HF bands with the three Special Event Callsigns to commemorate

**A Moment of Remembrance**  
**GB0GPF GN0URN MN0GPF**

Period of Operation  
1700 on May 31st to 1700 on June 2nd

Bands 80 to 10m  
Modes SSB & PSK

### Awards

A certificate is awarded to all stations that make contact with all three Special Event Station callsigns on any qualifying bands or modes of operation.

If a station is unable to contact all three stations, individual QSL cards are available.

Two classes of awards are available, one for licensed operators and one for short wave listeners

Full details of the event and the fort plus an award application form is available on the website

[www.greypointfort.magix.net/public](http://www.greypointfort.magix.net/public)



## Irish Radio Transmitters Society



### Annual General Meeting

**April 28th 2013**

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel,  
Athlone, Co. Westmeath**

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1400 on Sunday April 28th at the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

### Committee Nominations

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

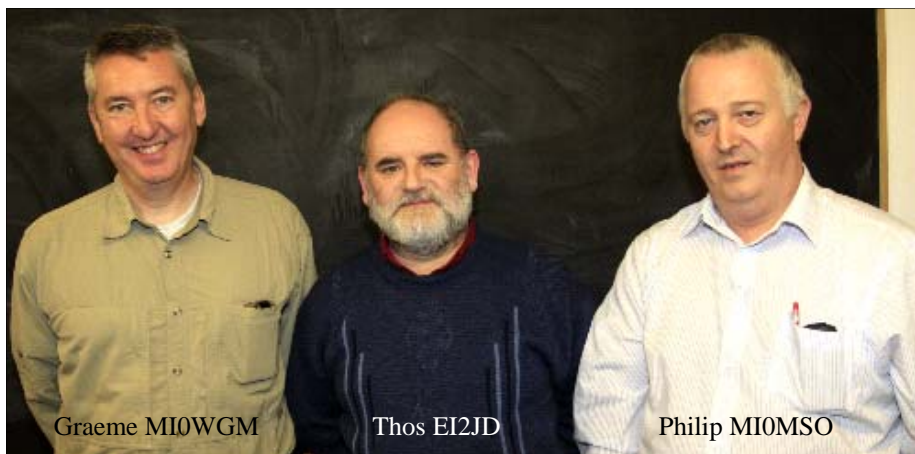
The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Seamus McCague EI8BP
Vice-President	Jim Smith EI4CP

### Committee

John Owen-Jones EI1EM  
Anthony Murphy EI2KC  
Tony Casey EI3HA  
Sean Donelan EI4GK  
Ger McNamara EI4GXB  
Jim Holohan EI4HH  
Dave O'Connor EI6AL  
Brendan Minish EI6IZ  
John Ronan EI7IG  
Brian Canning EI8IU  
Ken O'Brien EI9EL

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)



Graeme MI0WGM

Thos EI2JD

Philip MI0MSO

## Antenna for a Small Garden

By Tom Kelly EI2AJ

EI2AJ is still very active after 53 years. In fact I helped run EI3AB and EI6AB for a few years prior to getting the present call. Perhaps active for 60years.

I have been CW only and mostly QRP for all those years. For many years my rig was a B2 suitcase Transceiver (5w) designed to be dropped with agents behind enemy lines in WW2. I have still got the circuit diagram of the rig.

I believed then as now that QRP CW is real Amateur Radio. 2kw into a multi element beam is Commercial Radio.

Recently I decided to do a revamp of my antenna system (Half G5RV and at times the odd wire dipole). As my garden is small with a miniscule lawn and a small organic vegetable plot, I opted for a multi-band vertical.

I looked at many types on the various websites and magazines. Finally, I choose a Sigma Euro HF vertical (SE HF 360) at £129.00 including VAT.

The antenna is a fibre glass whip, 5.4m long with a 1.35m steel whip at the top.

It is end-fed with a UNUN Transformer in a weather sealed box at the base.

The impedance is 50 ohms and the connector is an SO-239.

The supply of fitting clamps, allen key, hardware and fitting instructions were very satisfactory.

The makers recommended isolating the base cradle from any metal mounting pole.

Assembly of the two fibre glass sections and the steel top whip was simple.

I did isolate the base cradle from the steel pole by using 4 feet of fibreglass sailing - dinghy mast.

Tests followed using an ATU (MJF-971) The antenna tuned well on all bands from 80m to 10m.

A number of contacts were made over a few day on all bands with good reports. My transceiver is a Yaesu FT 817 running approx 4.5watts. I noticed however that noise levels were fairly high on all bands.

Reading the literature I could not see any technical reason for isolating the antenna cradle from the steel pole. I phoned the makers and following a discussion with one of their technical staff decided not to isolate the antenna. I put up a 6m (20ft) steel pole and bolted on the cradle directly to it. The pole was well connected to an earthing system at the base.

Two very kind club members Tony EI7GI, and Martin EI4DE assisted your slightly decrepit scribe.

Results were satisfactory, Noise had gone and signals on all bands were up a few "S" points.

Using my 5w FT817 I have worked DX on all bands. On 21MHz 7NPRD Japan worked .at a distance of over 5000 miles resulted in one thousand miles per watt as did 5R8AL 5,921 mile also on 21 MHz.

Results on all other bands were also very satisfactory.

The antenna had no problems with recent hurricane force winds. I wonder would the other very highly priced verticals I saw in the magazines work as well.

If you are cursed with a small garden and smaller budget, the SE HF - 360 would appear to be the answer.

Full details and pictures can be found on the internet.

*Tom Kelly EI2AJ*

PS. I worked for some time in many countries in West Africa during the late 1960's .

All were good DX locations but civil wars, revolutions, coups and military dictators did not allow amateur activity. More about that all some other time.



## Cork Repeater Group

### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday April 23rd  
at 2000**

**Room 6,  
SMA Community Hall,  
Wilton, Cork City**

**All users and potential  
users are invited to attend**

**Enquiries to Secretary, Jim EI8GS  
on 087-2533768**

### Youngsters on the Air 2013

During the summer of 2013, a youth radio camp "Youngsters on the Air" will be held in Estonia, organized by Estonian Radio Amateurs Union. The IRTS are considering sending a Youth team to Estonia for Youngsters On The Air 2013.

During this week teams of young radio amateurs from 10 different European countries will be participating during different activities: presentations, contesting, visiting radio stations, observatory, etc...

As two previous events in Romania and Belgium/Netherlands have shown, it will be a great experience for the young hams which they will never forget.

**When: 5-12 August 2013**

**Participants: 10 teams from different European member associations of IARU Region 1.**

**A team consists of a team leader, who could be an older person and 4 team members aged between 14-25 years.**

**Anyone interested should contact:  
Ger McNamara EI4GXB,  
IRTS Youth coordinator  
087-2532512  
[ei4gxb@gmail.com](mailto:ei4gxb@gmail.com)**





# **Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

## **81st AGM Weekend**



**Hosted by  
Shannon Basin Radio Club**

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone**

**Saturday April 27th - IRTS Annual Dinner**  
**at 2000 - Tickets €30.00**

**Sunday April 28th - Radio Rally**  
**Traders access from 0800. Strictly no punters until 1100**  
**Doors open 1100. Admission €5.00**  
**Bookings for Dealers' Stands to Brian at 086-2514822.**

**IRTS AGM at 1400**

**All paid up IRTS members welcome**

**Talk in on 145.350MHz**

The IRTS 80m News will be read from the Rally at 12 noon.

A demonstration HF station will be on display for the general public  
EI13CLAN will operate from the site 1100-1500 on Sunday

**DXCC Card checking by Dave EI9FBB - Bring your cards also CW Tests**

**Dinner Tickets & Rally enquiries to**  
**Brian EI8IU on 086-2514822**  
**[www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie) - [www.shannonbasinradioclub.com](http://www.shannonbasinradioclub.com)**

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel Rates**  
**Double Room B&B - €90.00      Single Room B&B- €70.00**  
**Telephone Hotel on 0906 492601**

**Mention Shannon Basin Radio Club/IRTS when booking!**



# HF Happenings

with Anthony Murphy EI2KC

While we have technically put winter behind us, the dreary weather which has plagued us into spring has resulted in more hams staying in the shack when perhaps we might be otherwise engaged in outdoor activities.

There have been quite a number of wind storms, and reports of damaged and antennas have been frequent.

At my own station there have been three different repairs to the hexbeam during the winter. And those with damaged antennas are experiencing difficulty trying to find a good dry calm day on which to repair the damage.

Band conditions have been intransigently mixed. We are supposed to be right near the peak of this current sunspot cycle and yet the sun continues to disappoint. We have seen dips and troughs but most of the time the solar flux index is sitting just below 100, not really enough to guarantee good openings on 10 metres.

What is responsible for this very poor peak? There are different opinions. But the fact remains that we are not enjoying the excellent conditions that should be present.

We remain optimistic for a huge change in this situation, but perhaps that optimism might be a bit misplaced. All we can do, as always, is to take what's on offer and make the best of it.

During the past winter there was the usual focus on the lower bands, with many EI's trying to work the DX and rarer stations on 80 metres and top band. Both of those bands are challenging at this particular station. I only have a Butternut HFV6 for 80m and nothing at all that will resonate on 160m.

Having been stuck on 89 confirmations on 80m for a long time, I needed a ploy to get up to the 100, and therefore to have enough to apply for DXCC on that band.

While contesting is not everyone's cup of tea, I decided that the CQWW CW contest in late November presented the perfect opportunity to at least work a clatter of DXCC entities that I did not have already.

Sure enough, it was a great success, despite the limitations of the antenna. I managed to work 580 QSOs, working only at night time, and not the full night either, so I was chuffed.



The pile-ups were bigger on the Sunday night as contest participants migrated down from the higher bands as they closed after sunset. It may have taken a while to get to 100 confirmations, but within a few days of the contest finishing there were certainly a bunch of new ones.

It was January 13<sup>th</sup> by the time the 100<sup>th</sup> confirmation arrived by Logbook of the World, but the contest had certainly helped enormously.

This is good advice for those who are stuck on a certain number of DXCC on a particular band (non WARC bands of course). Maybe participate in one of the bigger contests to try to work some new ones.

I was worried that perhaps the contest stations would not be LoTW users but it turned out all of the new DXCC that I worked in CQWW on 80m were in fact registered users and did upload their logs afterwards.

## Top Band

One band that I don't usually give much attention to in this column, principally because of lack of space for a decent antenna, is 160 metres. Activity on that band is quite specialised. It doesn't behave like the higher bands, and is prone to noise, and of course is mainly a winter time, night time only band. Vertically polarized antennas are favoured for transmitting, and separate receive antennas are a real necessity for pulling out the DX.

I rely on the reports of others who use this band to keep us informed of conditions. There are a handful of really active 160m users, and others who dip in and out of the band. Without the proper antenna system, one relies on luck to bag rarer ones – perhaps a lift in conditions or a drop in the noise floor.

It is my great delight to count among my friends a big top-band user, Doug EI2CN, who has a superb QTH and a great antenna system, not just for 160 metres, but for all the HF bands.

On top band he has 185 DXCC confirmed, and uses an inverted L with raised radials as his transmit antenna, while he has used at various times different receive antennas, including beverages

*(Continued on page 9)*





(Continued from page 8)

and a K9AY.

Currently, he is using a Hi-Z four square receiving antenna.

Here is Doug's tally of new DXCC on 160m over the past winter: Oct 5, TT8TT Chad; Nov 11, PT0S St Peter & St Paul; Feb 7, T6LG, Afghanistan; Feb 7, 5X8C Uganda; Feb 16, 9U4U Burundi; Feb 26, XT2TT, Burkina Faso; Feb 5, TX5K, Clipper-ton; Mar 15, 9M4SLL Spratly.

Doug reported to HF Happenings: "The band continues to surprise. When your DXCC count is starting to get up there and you are not chasing all bands it is interesting to have a slightly more challenging band to concentrate on. Ten meters is too easy as in good band conditions one can work DXCC in a contest weekend but 160m is slower in providing its rewards."

Another top band aficionado is Pat EI8H, who felt that conditions on 160m during the past winter were quite good.

Pat told me the following about his exploits on top band:

The winter months on 160m was reasonably good and if you got the right times there were good morning openings to the Mid West & West coast America, South America and New Zealand.

Some of the contacts worked included, N7KV, TX5K, ZL3IX, ZL1BYZ, HK1R, HC2UA, T48RRC, PJ4X, VP9/W6PH, PJ2/K8ND and OX3LX.

160m is not like any other band and anyone venturing onto 160m to work long haul can rule out a horizontal antenna – vertical is king. One could use an inverted L with good ground system, 1/4 wave sloper fed at the top with very good ground system or ideally if you have the height a 1/2 wave sloper fed in the centre. This antenna is not as dependant on a ground system.

For those thinking about 160m, a few things to remember are:

- 1) If there is long haul DX station working say southern Europe, if you wait long enough it will generally open to EI, but timing is very critical
  - 2) As we approach Summer months there will be openings to South America and South Africa but these are late into the night contacts as opposed to the above worked winter month contacts.
  - 3) Finally if you want a real challenge on HF and work DX, and you have the space and height, there is no better thrill than hear you call sign come back to from a W6 or a ZL.
- All of Pat's contacts on top band were worked using a 1/2 wave sloper fed at the centre.

### Recent DXpeditions

As you read in the last issue, we were somewhat spoilt for choice with DXpeditions in 2012, including some very rare DXCC entities being activated. It might have seemed like 2013 would bring a drought, but so far there have been a few very nice activations with plenty of new ones to be worked or plenty of slots to be filled out.

Having taken a bit of a break from radio over Christmas, I plunged right back into things when the DXpeditions began in 2013.

First on the list was a DXpedition to 5Z4 Kenya by a number of

German amateurs. They gave this particular happy amateur six new slots.

Also in January Rwanda 9X was activated by Carl, SM6CPY, in a holiday style activation.

Leo, PP1CZ, was active from PY0F Fernando de Noronha during January and gave a few happy EI amateurs some new slots. In February, Irish radio amateurs had a particular interest in working 5X8C, a big DXpedition to Uganda, as one of the team members was Dave Deane, EI9FBB, the first Irish ham to achieve ten band DXCC status, and a former writer of this column.

Many of us had the pleasure of working Dave with this rare callsign, and indeed in general African countries are not too difficult to work here in EI.

The following were the top 11 of a total of 60 EIs to make it into the log: EI2CN (20 slots), EI4GXB (16), EI6JK (13), EI2KC (13), EI4II (11), EI5GM (10), EI7BA (10), EI3KG (10), EI7CC (10), EI4GJB (10) and EI4CF (10).

To see the full "league table" visit <https://secure.clublog.org/charts/?c=5X8C#>



Fernando, TZ6BB, has been active from Mali since earlier in the year, and it looks like he could be there for a few years, which is wonderful news for anyone who needs this entity, or to fill out slots. He is also a LoTW user and confirmed my 17m CW slot within a couple of days.

Fiji (3D2) and Rotuma (3D2-R) were activated by some American hams in February. I managed a QSO with 3D2RO in Rotuma on 20m CW using just 100 watts into my broadband SP7IDX hexbeam.

Another of the big African DXpeditions saw a team activating Burundi, under the callsign 9U4U.

51 EI callsigns were logged during the ten-day activation. Here were the top ten: EI2CN (17 slots), EI2KC (11), EI4II (10), EI6JK (10), EI4CF (9), EI9KC (9), EI2GLB (9), EI6FR (9), EI6IL (8) and EI3KG (8).

Overlapping with this operation was another African activation, XT2TT, Burkina Faso, by the I2YSB Italian dxpedition team.

There is no Clublog charts facility, but as far as I can ascertain these were the leading Irish stations to work XT2TT:

EI2KC (13 slots), EI6IL (12), EI6FR (11), EI9KC (10), EI8FH (10), and with nine slots apiece were EI6JK, EI4GJB and

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

EI4CF. Well done to everyone who made it into the log.

The “big one” of the year so far was, without doubt, the TX5K dxpedition to Clipperton Island in the Pacific Ocean – DXCC designator FO-C.

It was the 44<sup>th</sup> most wanted DXCC leading into the activation. It proved relatively easy to work from Ireland, or certainly not as difficult as might have been thought.

A total of 44 Irish callsigns were logged. Here is the top ten: EI7BA (18 slots), EI2CN (18), EI4KF (17), EI9KC (14), EI2KC (14), EI6JK (12), EI4CF (11), EI4GJB (11), EI2GLB (10) and EI6IL (10).

One of the most pleasurable contacts for me was a QSO on 80m CW early one morning. I worked them with three calls. Later the same morning I could hear them on 160m on my 40m inverted V.

Solomon Islands and Temotu were active as we were going to press with the callsigns H44G and H40T on air. H44G seemed to be much easier to hear, and

work, from Ireland, while H40T was a particular challenge, according to a number of reports to HF Happenings. While I managed three QSOs with H44G, I struggled badly to hear Temotu most of the time and eventually managed an early morning 40m CW QSO with H40T, just scraping into the log before they went QRT for the morning.



Also on air as I write this is XR0YG, Easter Island, which has been heard quite well on a number of bands. It is a CW only operation by a number of British hams.

Several EI stations have worked this as a new entity. Congrats to all. I will have a fuller report in the next issue.

## Forthcoming DXpeditions

### A3/Tonga

Jacek, SP5EAQ will be QRV as A3EAQ from Tongatapu, Kingdom of Tonga from the 26th March to the 16th April 2013. Tongatapu counts as OC-049 for IOTA purposes. Activity SSB only on 10-80m. QSL via home call (direct or bureau).

### V6/Micronesia

Takio, JH3QFL and Keizo, JH3AZC will be active from the South Park hotel, Pohnpei, Micronesia as V6H and V6S, respectively between April 29 to May 5, 2013. QRV on 80m – 6m SSB, CW, RTTY & JT65. QSL via H/cs.

### E51/South Cook Islands

Bruce, ZL1AAO will be active from Rarotonga as E51AAO between May 3-17, 2013. Operating holiday style (SSB only, 100w) look for him on 40-10m with homebrew wire antennas. QSL via H/c. Uploads to LoTW and eQSL.

Also, Tony, ZL2AGY plans to return to Rarotonga, and will be active as E51AGY from May 7th for approx 24 days. This will be a CW only operation running a K3 barefoot, and may include some activity in the WPX CW Contest during the last weekend of May. QSL via H/c.



### EJ7NET/Aran Islands

I will have the pleasure of being part of an international team activating EU-006 Aran Islands, from May 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, under the directorship of Declan Craig EI6FR.

Operators lined up for this activation are: EI6FR, EI3HA, EI2GX, EI7DSB, EI5IQ, EI2KC, HB9ASZ, HB9DGV, MM0BIM, GM3YEH, GM0DJG and GM3OZB. QSL via EI6FR.

### EJ0PL/Aran Islands

A 10-man team from the Papa Lima DX Group will be active from the Aran Islands EU-006 as EJ0PL between July 23-29, 2013. (IOTA contest included).

They hope to run three stations using Hexbeams on 20-6m and verticals on 80-30m — CW, SSB & Digi. QSL via EI5JQ.

### CY0/Sable Island

Gary VE1RGB and Murray WA4DAN have announced plans to be active from Sable Island as CY0P between October 1 – 11, 2013.

Approvals are in hand from Parks Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard. They have chartered a Britten Norman Islander aircraft for landing on the beach.

CY0P (Parks) call was chosen in recognition of the newest National Park in Canada.

### FR/Reunion

Guy, F5MNV will be active as FR/F5MNV from Reunion Island between April 6-29, 2013.

QRV on HF bands, only CW. QSL via H/c.

### H44/Solomon Islands

Operators Ralph, 5W0W/H44RK, Dom/SQ9KWW, Tom/WL7HP and Maggie/H44MK (the only local YL Ham from Sikiana) will be active as H44IOTA during their upcoming IOTA tour which will start during the first week of June.

Preliminary dates have now been announced for each island, but may vary due to the nature of the tour.

Here is their announced schedule:

June 1-4th - New Georgia Island (OC-149);

June 6-8th - Russell Islands (OC-168);

June 10-13th - Florida Islands (OC-158);

June 17-24th - Stewart Island (OC-285)\*\*;

July 1-7th - Nendo Island (OC-100);

July 9-12th - Vanikolo/Utupua (OC-163);

July 14-16th - Reef Islands (OC-065);

\*\* Of special interest to IOTA chasers is Stewart Island (OC-285) having NEVER been activated!!

Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. All QSL



requests are via QSL Manager Rex Turvin, NR6M.

For updates, it is suggested to watch:

<http://www.qrz.com/db/H40RK>

#### **KH9/Wake Atoll**

Team Leader Lou N2TU and the Management Team of Joe W8GEX, Craig K9CT, and Joe AA4NN are proud to announce they are planning a Commemorative DXpedition to a rare DX entity.

This DXpedition will be to Wake Atoll (KH9) in October 2013. They will use the callsign K9W

Joe and Craig were the co-leaders of the very successful DXpeditions to Swains Island NH8S in 2012, and Sint Maarten PJ7E in 2010. They were also team members of the Midway K4M DXpedition in 2009. Joe AA4NN is a veteran of these as well as many other DXpeditions across the globe. Lou was also a member of the Swains NH8S team.

This operation is a Commemorative DXpedition in that it combines a DXpedition and a commemoration of an event. 98 civilian contractors working for Morrison- Knutsen, lost their lives on the atoll in October 1943.

The group has been named the "Forgotten 98". Their operation, observing the 70th anniversary of their deaths, will be dedicated to keeping their memory alive and honoring their sacrifice.

Wake ranks number 15 in Club Log's Most Wanted Entities. A highly experienced team of 12 operators is being formed. They plan to operate five stations over a 14 day period, 160 to 6 meters on all modes, using a callsign to be announced at a later date.

Team Operators include Joe AA4NN - John K6MM - Carl K9CS - Craig K9CT - Mike K9NW - Lou N2TU - Tom N4XP - Tom ND2T - Dick W3OA - Joe W8GEX - Hal W8HC and Jerry WB9Z.

Wake Atoll's access is extremely limited and the time frame is dictated by transportation issues. As such, official dates have not been set but will be announced as soon as possible. The team will gather in Honolulu and then travel to Wake. Official landing permission has been obtained.

#### **KH8/American Samoa**

Bill, N6MW, will make one last try to activate American Samoa as KH8/N6MW from a hotel in Tutuila between November 11-21st.

The focus will be on "Maximum number of different stations contacted; CW, some SSB and RTTY if/when things slow down; EU when possible on higher bands; and significant 160m effort." For more details and updates, visit: <http://n6mw.jimdo.com>

As usual, I'm very grateful to OPDX and DX-world.net for information on DXpeditions.

That's all for this month's HF Happenings. I hope to hear you in the pile-ups, and of course to hear about your exploits on the bands!!

Slán go foil,  
Anthony EI2KC

## **First EI 5 Band Worked All Zones Award for Dave Deane EI9FBB**



## **IRTS Contests 2013**

<b>CW Field Day</b>	<b>June 1/2nd</b>
<b>80m Counties</b>	<b>June 23rd</b>
<b>VHF,UHF Field Day</b>	<b>July 6/7th</b>
<b>2m Counties August</b>	<b>25th August</b>
<b>SSB Field Day</b>	<b>September 7/8th</b>



## LY Society Chairman Visits EI7M



Rolandas Mikalauskas LY4Q, Chairman of the Lithuanian Amateur Radio Society (LRMD)) recently visited the EI7M Contest Station in East Cork. Fellow Lithuanian, Dmitrij (Dan) Pavlov LY3MM/EI3JZ (EI7M member) now resident in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan made the long trip south to meet him. Rolandas was hosted on his visit to Cork by Tony EI9HK. Pictured are Rolandas LY4Q, Dan EI3JZ, Tony EI9HK, Neil EI3JE and John EI8IR,

## IRTS Technical Panel

The IRTS has launched a new service for amateur radio operators in Ireland. In our ongoing endeavours to engage more fully with amateurs we have identified an area we feel could be of significant benefit to them. What is it? The IRTS Technical Panel is a group of volunteers who have expertise in, or experience of, different aspects of amateur radio. Our aim is to help radio amateurs with technical or operational problems.

### What types of problems do we handle?

We don't have a definitive list; however, here are some of the issues that we would have some expertise in:-

- Antennas (e.g. best antenna for a given location, matching antennas to rigs)
- Station operation (e.g. TVI, RF in the shack)
- Sourcing components (e.g. "where can I get toroids?")
- IT issues (e.g. logging programs, rig interfacing, LoTW uploads)

### How do I ask a question?

Send your question to [irtstech@irts.ie](mailto:irtstech@irts.ie).

Provide as much information as possible, including details of attempts already made to deal with the issue in question.

### How do I get an answer?

Your query via [irtstech@irts.ie](mailto:irtstech@irts.ie) will be distributed to all the members of the Technical Panel and the resolution to the query e-mailed to you.

### The Future ...

In time we plan to compile a database of questions and answers from our correspondence. This database could be the first port of call in resolving a query.

### Who is on the technical panel?

Good question ... maybe you?

Currently, we are assembling a panel of experts on all the topics likely to arise. We need more volunteers; if you can help, please send your details to [irtstech@irts.ie](mailto:irtstech@irts.ie).

Jim Holohan EI4HH is the co-ordinator of the Technical Panel.

## Marconi Sites in EI

### Crookhaven, Co. Cork

In 1902, a Marconi telegraphic station was established in the village of Crookhaven, County Cork, Ireland to provide marine radio communications to ships arriving from the Americas.

A ship's master could contact shipping line agents ashore to enquire which port was to receive their cargo without the need to come ashore at what was the first port of landfall.

Ireland was also, due to its western location, to play a key role in early efforts to send trans-Atlantic messages.

### Clifden & Letterfrack, Co. Galway

As existing submarine cable operators in the early 1900s had held a monopoly on international telegraph service to Newfoundland, Marconi's first regular trans-Atlantic wireless service was established on October 17, 1907 between Derrygimla Bog, Clifden, Galway, Ireland and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

An additional Marconi receiving station in Letterfrack, Ireland had operated from 1913 until 1916.

On June 15, 1919, the first non-stop trans-Atlantic airplane crossing by Capt. John Alcock and Lt. Arthur Brown left Newfoundland and arrived at the Marconi site in Clifden, Ireland.

### Ballybunion, Co. Kerry

Additional facilities were constructed at Ballybunion, Ireland in 1914 and employed during World War I.

In March 1919, the first Marconi broadcast of voice by longwave radio, made from Marconi's station YXQ at Ballybunion using vacuum tubes instead of the spark gap transmitters formerly used in radiotelegraph operation, was heard as far as Chelmsford and Louisburg, Nova Scotia.

### Howth Martello Tower

The famous American radio pioneer Lee de Forest conducted wireless telegraphy experiments from the tower in 1903.

In 1905 the British Post Office carried out wireless telegraphy experiments at the tower in Howth between HMS Monarch and a Marconi receiving station.

## DX Code Of Conduct



- I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
- I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
- I will always send my full call sign.
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
- I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
- When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

[www.dx-code.org](http://www.dx-code.org)

## EI13CLAN

As you may be aware, 2013 sees a major event entitled 'The Gathering' being promoted both at home and abroad to engage with the Irish Diaspora around the globe.

This is a 32 county, cross boarder, initiative and given the unique ability of Amateur Radio to communicate so effectively, the Society will support the initiative by way of a variety of events and programmes during the year.

ComReg has issued to the Society a special event callsign 'EI 13 CLAN' which will be active through out the year, much as our 'EI 80 IRTS' call was used in 2012.

We expect that the callsign will generate quite a lot of interest from overseas operators, particularly in the U.S., who have Irish roots, so if there are any members who have a particular interest in genealogy and who would be willing to assist with any such queries please contact Seamus EI8BP, or any member of the committee.

Any member wishing go on air with EI13CLAN should contact Dave EI6AL at [dave.ei6al@gmail.com](mailto:dave.ei6al@gmail.com) or by phone on 0861000000.



### Ian Morris Memorial Trophy

The South Dublin Radio Club, in honour of the late Ian Morris EI6U, donated the trophy to the Society. Ian was a member of the committee of the Society for many years and was a very proficient CW, Field Day and contest operator. The trophy is awarded to the shortwave listener with the highest number of DXCC entities heard in the previous year.

### The Radio Constructor Magazines available

Josef, EI3I has two boxes filled with copies of "The Radio Constructor" Magazine dating back to the 1960s. He is reluctant to consign them to a skip and will gladly donate them to anybody who will give them a good home. "The Radio Constructor" in later years became Practical Wireless. If you are interested, contact Josef at 01 2886632.

### IRTS on Twitter & Facebook

The IRTS Twitter account has been set up and is now live at : <https://twitter.com/theirts>

You can also find IRTS on facebook.

Check out the buttons on the IRTS website homepage [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie)



# Lough Erne Rally 2013

Many thanks from Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club to all those who played a part in its thirtysecond Rally on Sunday 24th March. Despite worries that very disruptive winter weather elsewhere might badly affect travel to Fermanagh, all traders expected got there. Only one exhibitor could not.

For the many there, from Coleraine, Ballymena and Bangor, from Athlone, Dublin, Mayo and from elsewhere, this was another enjoyable Lough Erne rally bringing together radio amateurs and experimenters from both sides of the Border.

All the tables set out in the big SHARE Arena were full but overall numbers were noticeably down, perhaps due to a mix of travel costs and financial recession exacerbated by serious snow disruption, that Fermanagh itself had escaped.

IRTS President Seamus EI8BP was there, and won a raffle prize, aptly the RSGB Centenary Edition Call Book. Pat EI2HX was there with the IRTS stand. At the RSGB display were its new Regional and District Manager team, Phillip MI0MSO with Bobby MI0RYL, Melvin MI0MSR and Trevor MI5TCC. Eddie GI7FHZ and Herbie GI6JPO recruited a dozen more volunteers for Raynet (Northern Ireland).

The team displaying the work of perhaps Northern Ireland's busiest club Mid Ulster ARC included David MI0IRZ (Chair) with Ryan MI6TFN, John MI0WJC, Louis MI6LSY and Brian MI0TGO.

At the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network stand were Dominic EI9JS, Jimmy EI2GCB and Padraic EI9JA, the Mayo Rally organiser.

Donegal's Michael EI3HY set up his ever interesting stall. Aubrey GI4TOR, Chairman led a party from Ballymena ARC. The most senior radio amateur present, a former RSGB President, Terry GI3USS from Bangor greeted two recently licensed amateurs, Fermanagh's Gaby MI0WGL Fermanagh and Monaghan's Mark EI8KH.

Noel EI6HW was one of several from Athlone - hosting April's IRTS AGM and Rally

It is not news that another raffle winner, Billy 2I0ETB was at this rally. He has been at each and every rally in Ireland for years past.

Aptly, Jimmy GI0OND at the RAOTA stand recruited Billy into the Radio Amateur Old Timers Association.

The most historic exhibit set up by Joe EI2JZ, Tony EI5EM and others from the Howth Vintage Radio Museum included a hefty Heathkit Apache Transceiver.

Fr Jim Stone EI4Q owned the one he used to help the Chief of Staff, Sean McKeon make contact the Irish Army on UN duties in the Congo on that sad day in 1960 when news broke of the Niemba ambush.

There is more on this story in the Museum literature.

Aptly, the smallest exhibition was some examples of QRP home-brew rigs set up by Michael MI5MTC and Tony EI5EM with literature about the GQRP club.

Above are a few samples of what there was to see and whom there was to meet at this years Lough Erne Rally. They illustrate its strong tradition as the major annual meeting place for Ireland's northern radio amateurs and southern radio experimenters.

For more see [www.learc.eu](http://www.learc.eu)

Michael Clarke, MI5MTC,  
Secretary LEARC



On the EchoLink Stand



Gaby MI0WGL, Terry GI3USS, Mark EI8KH



On the RSGB Stand: Philip MI0MSO, Trevor MI5TCC,  
Bobby MI0RYL,



Ken GI7UIP



Michael EI3HY



# Coolmine Rally 2013

Pictures by Joe Guilfoyle EI2JZ



Marie-Therese with Pat Herbert and Billy 2I0ETB



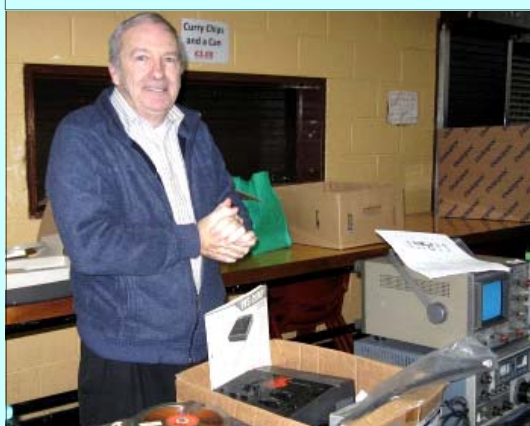
Michael Goss EI2JM with Bernard Mothersil



Anthony EI2KC



Liam Brady EI9DVB with Noel Vaughan



Charlie Lyons EI2EM



Liam EI9DVB



Andy Early EI4ERB



Pat Herbert with Michael MI5MTC



Tony Walshe EI5EM





# How I got introduced to Amateur Radio.

By Edwin EI2HEB

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Edwin van Mierlo, not really an Irish name you may notice. I am Dutch by birth and moved to Ireland in 1997. I have lived in County Cork since then; first in Cork city, then Ballincollig and the current QTH is Macroom.

You could say I am slowly moving west every 5 years or so, but it seems that I have found my spot in Macroom for the moment.

I first got introduced to Amateur Radio by my uncle Pete, PD0FFS(sk). This was in the late 1970's; I was only a young boy.

From the very beginning when entering the shack and seeing all these magical boxes, making noise, weird tones; machines which look like giant typewriters, spitting out paper ribbons with little holes in them, I was immediately interested and curious. It was a wonderful world in front of my eyes.

It was fantastic to watch and observe my uncle making QSO's. I learned about FM, AM, and SSB. He showed me antennas, rotators, coax patch panels. Incredible! I was hooked; these noisy boxes were going to play a role in my life. I didn't know it was going to take more than 30 years to actually get there, but hooked I was.

I made my first supervised 2m/FM QSO during a weekend in 1979 with some good propagation: Holland to Jersey! Some Dutch operators were on Jersey for a DXpedition. How proud I was!

I spoke to another country without a telephone!

I was introduced to the fantastic world of Amateur Radio!

I guess this was the time, around the 1980's, when my own father, who is an 'old sparky', gave me my first 'Phillips EE2003 Electronics Experimenting Kit'. This kit was a wonderful tool, which allowed me to build simple electronic circuits, and to learn about Ohms Law, resistors, capacitors, and transistors.

I build my first radio (Rx) with this kit! Loved it! I continued building circuits, but more permanent on PCB's, well into my teens.

I must say that my father did all to support me to continue this hobby. His guidance, patience, support, and help throughout the years really formed me as a "technology hobbyist". Even to present day, we still enjoy tackling various projects together, from building antennas, to building flight-cases to hold radio equipment, and making power supplies.

It was my father who thought me about antennas. When I was in my teens, I found out that he used to have, what many would call; "a weird hobby".

He used to chase DX-TV. I found various boxes in the attic, which contained VHF and UHF Yagi antenna components. Obviously, I had to rebuild them. It was a true miracle, to watch foreign stations on the TV, before the era of cable, satel-



lite, internet, Netflix and sky-boxes.

He taught me the basic formulas, what a wave length is, and how a dipole/Yagi worked. He thought me the difference between ribbon feed line versus 75-Ohm coax. I still have some of the "Electronic Yearbooks" from the 1960's which he used to teach me all of this.

I guess at a certain point in time, I was in my late teens and the electronics, radio, DX-TV; all faded as I discovered girls, discos and beer. Not necessarily in that order. My electronic hobby took a pause for longer than I would have imagined at the time.

Fast forward through this period.

While I still did some small work on electronics throughout the years, I really did not think about any radio or electronics in any way seriously. You could say; 'life took over'.

Suddenly I found myself in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 2010, and while browsing on the internet I found a website selling scanners and other radio accessories.

I decided to buy a scanner, a Uniden Bearcat 3500XLT, and a broadband Rx antenna with a magmount. This purchase was the restart of my radio enthusiasm after such a long time being dormant.

I programmed the various services, taxi's, busses, aviation, marine frequencies, and off course the Amateur Radio repeaters which I found on the IRTS website, into this small little handheld scanner. I started listening. It was fantastic to listen to all the radio traffic, and conversations. The old 'bug', the memories from when I was younger, the time spend in my uncle's radio shack, surfaced again.

Probably not surprisingly, I started to read about Amateur Radio on the internet, a vast collection of public material, and not in the least on the IRTS website itself. It was shortly after all this, maybe weeks after the purchase of the scanner that I made the decision to study.

I am not sure if it was a conscious decision, or that it was a natural progression. Books were bought, and I started my studies.

Once started, the urge to “get on the air” was growing. The only two real options to get on the air as a non-licensed radio enthusiast is either CB or PMR446.

I found myself involved in an online forum discussion about PMR446, and after the purchase of two Binatone hand sets, I was on the air. Well, in theory, as for those frequencies, and with the maximum power of only 500mW, there was not much traffic, if at all.

It wasn't long into 2011 when I organized an “All Ireland PMR446 Hilltop day”; by using various online forums and media, enough publicity was made, and a large group from all over the island participated.

It was that day when I made my first QSO since I was in my uncle's shack in the 1970/80's.

I made a contact from Bandon to the Galtee Mountains, according to Google maps a distance of about 72km. A remarkable result for a standard PMR set with rubber-duck antenna! The reports on the internet came in the next day, and many people made QSO's ranging from local only to over 100km!

Throughout 2011 various, very enjoyable, PMR446 contacts were made.

I have to admit that I have not used PMR446 much since my license.

Although I have given one of the PMR sets to my parents, as they live in range. My mother gets a great kick out of using the little handset and talking to me over the air!

After all, it was her brother who introduced me to Amateur Radio in the first place. She has fascinating stories from when she was younger and used to watch him operate. My mother is very supportive, and very proud that I am continuing what really is a family tradition.

I need to thank her for all the times that my father and I were working on projects, thank her for her patience and support, and not in the least for the tea & biscuits, and all the dinners she cooked, while we were mucking around, trying to finish an antenna or power supply!

The studies continued and while I had some excellent books, aided with an arsenal of online references, I had questions

about various topics. I needed some help. I became a member of the North Cork Radio Group and started to attend their frequent meetings. This was a great opportunity to learn, not only by asking questions, but also to listen to the stories from the members of the Group.

This was the much needed help and I learned a lot from this group of amateur operators.

Despite all the jokes and slugging they threw at me at various times, my studies progressed to a point where I was confident to sit the exam.

After some email exchanges with Sean Nolan, the date for the next exam was set for October-2011. The day of the exam had arrived. Nervous as can be expected; I made my way to the ComReg offices in Dublin. I was finished after 40 minutes, nothing more I could do. I handed in my paper to Sean, and made my way back to Cork. “The wait” had begun, waiting for the post man, looking out for that envelope. The results came; 93% score, PASSED!

The license application was mailed back to ComReg office that same day. It was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2011, after some emails with Derek O'Reilly from ComReg, that I got my license.

Derek was very kind to send me the license documentation and my call sign by email.

I became a licensed Amateur Radio Operator.

From that moment onwards; I am known as EI2HEB!

I am convinced that my uncle Pete would have been very proud of this moment.

It was that same day, in the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2011 that I had my first licensed QSO. My first contact was Lisa reading the news as EI0RTS, and after the news as EI9GSB. Since that first log entry, many more EI stations and international stations followed and will, I am sure, follow in the future.

It is a very enjoyable hobby; and I hope to talk to many of you on the air soon.

73

EI2HEB

## International Marconi Day April 20th 2013

The 25th Annual International Marconi Day event will be held this year over 24 hours on Saturday April 20th.

At the time of writing there were no EI stations confirmed on the IMD web site but the North Cork Radio Group have announced their operation again this year from the Mizen Head Visitor Centre using the callsign EI0IMD and Cork Radio Club will return to Brow Head near Crookhaven with the callsign EI5IMD.

EI0MAR will operate from Ye Olde Hurdy Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio in the Martello Tower in Howth.

In 1905, ship to shore telegraphy experiments were carried out between HMS Monarch and a Marconi receiving station located in the same Martello tower.

Keep an eye on GB4IMD.com for station updates.

## IRTS Radio News Service

Items for inclusion in the IRTS Radio News and/or the Echo Ireland Newsletter can be sent by email to

**newsteam@irts.ie**

Deadline for inclusion in the Sunday news bulletin is 1200 on Thursday.

Urgent items can be telephoned to the Editor,

**Aidan EI7JC on 085-7100511**



# South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The AGM of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group took place in the Roanmore Social and Sports Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00 p.m.

There was a large attendance present with some familiar faces and some new faces also there. Outgoing chairman David EI6GVB, who subsequently got re-elected as chairman, thanked all members for attending and also welcomed the new members to the club. The club then observed a minutes silence for the late Michael Hoban EI5DCB who sadly passed away in March 2012.

David then went on to tell everyone present that 2012 had been a very successful year for the club in general with the club taking part in many outdoor events during the year. David also thanked the outgoing committee for their work thought 2012 and hoped that 2013 would be an even more successful year for the club.

Outgoing club treasurer Mark EI7IS, who subsequently got re-elected, also told the members that the club was in a good financial position and membership was at an all-time high and was looking forward to more members joining during the year. He gave a brief talk about how the expenditure of the club works discussing both incoming and outgoing expenses.



## SEARG Committee for 2013

L to R: Nicky Madigan EI3JB, John McCarthy EI8JA, Sean Byrne EI2HZB, Mark Wall EI7IS, David Gainda EI6GVB, Dennis Drennan EI2HSB, and John Tubbritt. Missing from photo is John Ronan EI7IG.

The following members were then deemed elected for Committee positions for the year 2013.

Chairman	David Gainda EI6GVB,
Vice-Chairman	Nicky Madigan EI3JB,
Secretary	Dennis Drennan EI2HSB,
Treasurer	Mark Wall EI7IS,
PRO	Sean Byrne EI2HZB,
Officer 1	John Tubbritt,
Officer 2 J	ohn McCarthy EI8JA
Officer 3	John Ronan EI7IG.



Group photo of all those who attended the SEARG AGM 2013.  
Thanks to Barry Mulcahy EI3HLB for the photographs.

The meeting then concluded with a great informal chat between members and for anyone that was feeling a wee bit hungry David EI6GVB kindly provided the unique to Waterford delicacy the bla with red luncheon which everyone enjoyed. Thanks to David for going to the trouble of doing this.

For up-to-date news about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and it's actives you can check our website [www.searg.com](http://www.searg.com) and you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

*Sean Byrne EI2HZB  
P.R.O. SEARG*

## Declan Horan EI9FVB

### New 9's Series QSL Sub-Manager

From March 1st 2013, the incoming buro 9 Series QSL manager changed hands from Dave Deane EI9FBB to Declan EI9FVB.

**Email: [horandx@gmail.com](mailto:horandx@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 086-3336386**

Sincere thanks to Dave Deane EI9FBB for his years of top class service as the 9's sub-manager.



## Kazuo JA1EYN visits Ger EI4GXB



In March, IRTS Secretary Ger EI4GXB was contacted by Kazuo JR1EYN/AJ6K/EI4VYA, who is Professor of Applied Informatics at Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan. Kazuo was on a visit to the University of Limerick and asked if they could get together for a meeting to discuss and share ideas about Amateur Radio from their respective countries. Naturally Ger was only too happy to oblige Kazuo and he joined the McNamara family for dinner at their home and spent some time in Ger's shack. They exchanged lots of ideas and Kazuo will publish an article on his visit to Ireland in the JARL Magazine. Ger presented Kazuo with an IRTS lapel badge as a memento of his visit.

## The ARRL LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD



In the wake of high-profile crashes and slowdowns of the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) online confirmation system, the League's board of directors has established an *ad hoc* committee to review current policies and practices, user issues and, according to the ARRL Letter, "the economic value of an LoTW award point or credit."

The committee will deliver a preliminary report to the full board at its next meeting in July.

There is no indication of how or whether the committee's work may affect plans to introduce LoTW support for CQ's Worked All Zones (WAZ) award later this year.

## High Speed Telegraphy Championships

The Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs will host the 11th World High Speed Telegraphy Championship in September.

The event will be held in the city of Borovets between September 22 and 26, and competitors from all over the world are invited to participate.

More information is available at <[www.bfra.org](http://www.bfra.org)> or by e-mail to <[bfra\\_hq@hotmail.com](mailto:bfra_hq@hotmail.com)>.

## ITU Regs Available for Free Download



An electronic version of its 2012 *International Radio Regulations* may be downloaded at no charge from the ITU website at

<<http://www.itu.int/pub/R-REG-RR-2012>>.

This update includes decisions of international radio conferences going back to 1995. The relevant section for hams is Article 25.

If you prefer a hard copy, it is also available, but at a cost of more than \$400 US.

## PSK-31 Code Gets ITU Official "Seal of Approval"



The code behind the popular PSK-31 digital mode has now been officially endorsed by the International Telecommunication Union and given its own "recommendation" number. The ARRL reports that the technical characteristics of "Varicode," developed by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, in the 1990s and which serves as the underpinning of PSK-31, has been officially enshrined by the ITU as Recommendation ITU-R M.2034, *Telegraphic Alphabet for Data Communication by Phase Shift Keying at 31 Baud in the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services*.

ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, says the primary value of the designation is that it "provides further documentation in an important international forum of radio amateurs' continuing creativity and contributions to the art and science of radio communication."



The ARRL Letter reports that the Universal Postal Union has rolled out a new "model" of the International Reply Coupon, or IRC.

Known as the Doha model, the new coupons will become available on July 1, 2013 and will be good through December 31, 2017.

The current "Nairobi" model IRCs are valid through December 31, 2013. The U.S. Postal Service no longer sells IRCs but post offices in the U.S. must redeem them and they may still be purchased in other countries.



# Dundalk ARS SOTA Presentation

Dundalk ARS held it's bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday 20th March and played host to Graeme M10WGM from Mid-Ulster ARC and Philip Hosey M10MSO, Region 8 Manager for the RSGB.

Graeme gave a presentation covering all aspects of SOTA – Summits on the Air, an activity already very popular and growing in popularity in both EI and GI, with licensees from both sides of the border regularly activating summits. The presentation began with an outline of the activity and the rules and guidelines which govern it.

From this point Graeme then proceeded to show an array of equipment and antennas which he uses in his SOTA activities, explaining the rationale and benefits of each.

He explained that SOTA, being a QRP activity relies heavily on effective antennas and minimising losses to ensure that the 5 watts output of the transceiver is used to best effect.

He also highlighted the strong homebrew nature of the activity and shared many tips from the evolution of his own equipment to aid efficiency and also to minimise the weight.

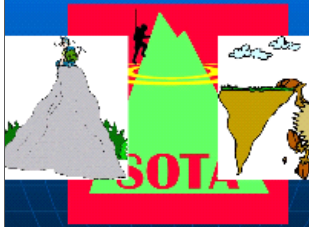
The presentation ended off with a discussion of the safety considerations and kit carried to ensure personal safety when walking in the mountains.

All members enjoyed the presentation and there were many questions and discussions.

The evening rounded off with a short talk from Philip who outlined his role and affirmed his commitment to continue to foster strong links between clubs in GI and EI and between the RSGB and IRTS.



## SOTA – Summits on the Air



## What is a Summit?

### One Peak



### Two Peaks



The 500' Golden Rule

## 2 types of SOTA operators:

### Activators

- Operate portable from a defined summit
- All equipment must be carried to summit
- Four unique contacts required for activation
- Points for summit are based on altitude
- Allowed to activate a summit for points once per year

### Chasers

- Contact activators
- Points same as activator points
- Allowed chaser points for a summit once per day





## Axel EI8JX

After almost 3 years on the air, I want to give a short report on my activities.

In May 2010, I started on the HF bands, using EI8JX, in CW mode.

My equipment consists of a K2/100w, a K3/100w and a Zepp aerial, 42 metres long, end fed, 10 metres over ground.

I have taken part in several world-wide HF contests like CQWW DX CW, ARRL DX CW, IOTA, WPX and others.

Meanwhile I was able to reach the DXCC Award (incl. Sticker 150 countries), the IOTA EUROPE Award and the IOTA 100 ISLANDS of the WORLD Award.

I try to reach the WAI Award in CW.

In February 2013, I became a member of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Club.

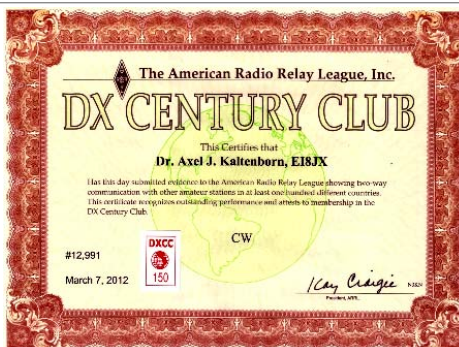
On the occasion of this report, I especially want to thank Brendan, EI6IZ.

In 2010, he helped me with the paperwork in applying for an Irish licence.

Thank you very much, Brendan.

In the future, I want to meet Irish radio hams more often on the HF bands, especially in Morse code.

**Axel EI8JX**



## Cork Radio Club Annual General Meeting

Cork Radio Club's Annual General Meeting held at Vienna Woods Hotel on Monday February 25th had almost 30 members in attendance.

Following a period of inactivity by the club that generated some lively discussion, a full programme of events including monthly talks, special events and field day activities was agreed for the year ahead.

Tributes were paid to retiring Chairman Jeremy EI5GM and retiring Treasurer Dick EI6HH, both of who gave outstanding long service to the club.

Cormac EI4HQ is the new Chairman with long serving Finbarr EI1CS as vice-chairman.

Dave EI4BZ continues as secretary and Jim EI8GS takes over as treasurer.

Tom EI2KA is the new QSL Manager and also event manager for International Marconi Day at Brow Head in April.

The new committee members are Jack EI7HO, Dave EI9FBB and Don EI8DJ.

The monthly meetings will rotate throughout the county to facilitate members who are located from the Beara Peninsula in the West to Youghal in the east, a spread of about 110 miles.

Members will be kept informed via the club reflector and the IRTS News service.

Enquiries about the club should be directed to the secretary or any committee member.

Reports presented to the AGM included and account of the very successful Titanic special event station that ran for the whole of 2012 using the callsign EI100T.

Over 11,000 QSOs were made on all modes and over all bands.

QSLing has proved to be a huge job and all direct QSLs have been answered and the buro cards are almost up to date.

Cormac EI4HQ was thanked for his superb effort.

EI5IMD was operated from Brow Head for Marconi Day by Tim EI2KA and Hans EI9GRB and the club plan a return trip this year under the guidance of Tim EI2KA.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

**The Shop**



**10% discount for  
IRTS members  
on Amateur Radio Books**

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[www.irtsshop.com](http://www.irtsshop.com)**

## Limerick Radio Club

The Annual General Meeting took place on February 13th in LIT. It was well attended with a turnout of 20 members. Apologies were received from several members who, through work and/or other commitments, could not attend.

Chairman, Simon EI7ALB, opened the meeting and called for a minutes silence in honour of deceased members of the club.

He outlined the activities undertaken by the club in what was a very busy year.

Club members gave talks on a variety of topics during the year including Antenna Rotator problems and available control software, UHF Detection, Arduino Kits and the D-Star Dongle.

The purchase of the SCAM mast was considered a very good acquisition.

The Chairman of Shannonside Astronomy Club, Dave Lillis, took club members on a virtual tour of the solar system and out into the universe at the May meeting.

His introduction to the various types of telescopes and tips on purchasing telescopes was very well received.

The IL&LW event in Loop Head Lighthouse was a major success.

Treasurer, Tony EI2AW presented the financial report and while the club is in a good financial position, he cautioned that the club had a number of exceptional expenses during 2012. The purchase of the SCAM mast made a significant impact on club funds.

Membership fees and fee structure has not changed for a very long time and the committee felt it was time to open a discussion on same, especially since the membership fees just about cover the bare running costs of the club. A lively discussion ensued resulting in a proposal from the floor that the fees and structure be changed when renewals fall due on 1st January 2014.

Chairman	Simon Kenny EI7ALB
Treasurer	Anthony Condon EI2AW
Hon. Secretary	Ger McNamara EI4GXB
Committee:	Alan Cronin EI8EM, Dermot Gleeson EI2GT, Brendan Kilmartin, Liam Rainford EI7DSB
Trustees:	Tom O'Sullivan EI3AL, Michael Kingston EI2IX, Dermot Gleeson EI2GT.

### Radio Hobbies and Electronics Fair

Once again the Limerick Radio Club wishes to thank all those - Amateur Radio enthusiasts, Traders, Hobbyists, Bring & Buy and Club Members who participated in the annual Radio, Hobbies and Electronics Fair, which took place on Sunday 3rd March. While the numbers attending/visiting were down on previous years the club is very happy with the outcome. Many of the usual traders attended along with some new ones. Thanks to all who donated equipment to the Repeater Fund sale stand where Dermot EI2GT and Mike EI2IX were kept busy.

The club gratefully acknowledges the attendance of IRTS, Shannon Branch of the International Plastic Modellers Society and Shannonside Astronomy Club.

Thanks to Paddy EI8GY and John EI6IW, the raffle proved very successful with the following winners:

#### Bhi Digital Speaker:

Donated by Graham Somerville, Bhi UK won by Joe Ryan EI9HGB

#### Half Wave G5RV:

Donated by Stephen Boyd won by Brian Canning EI8IU

#### World Band SW RX:

Donated by Long Communications won by Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

#### ICOM Document Folder + ICOM Mouse:

Donated by ICOM won by Christopher Mann EI9CZB

#### Souls of the Sea book:

Donated by Frequencydb.com won by George Fitzgerald SWL

Kenwood donated pens and lanyards.

## IRTS Shop

IRTS Members scan avail of a 10% discount on purchases from the RSGB on line shop.

IRTS members should select the "**Non members Price**" before placing the order and then enter the special IRTS Discount Code during the checkout process. At this point the 10% discount will be calculated.

IRTS members, who are also RSGB members, should continue to select the "**RSGB Member's Price**" to get the RSGB Member's discount and not use the IRTS Discount Code.

It is not possible to obtain both discounts!

The IRTS Discount Code will change from time to time and will be published for members in Echo Ireland.

Currently the Code is:

**IRTS2012XWW**

The RSGB Shop can be accessed from the link on the IRTS website or directly at

**[www.rsgbshop.org](http://www.rsgbshop.org)**

The RSGB Shop stocks a comprehensive range of books on radio and related topics published by RSGB and others.

**Check it out today!**

## US Licence Numbers Continue to Rise



ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reported that the ranks of amateur radio operators in the United States have continued to grow at a "healthy" rate, ending the year 2012 with a record-high 709,575 licenses.

According to the ARRL Letter, Somma said the number of new licenses issued in 2012 was more than 3,000 higher than in 2011, and that amateur radio in the U.S. has grown by 7% in the past four years.

The fourth call district continues to be home to the greatest number of hams (140,000), followed by the sixth call area (100,000).



# Rubber Duck Antenna Comparisons

by  
Tony EI4DIB



Have you ever wondered about the rubber duck antenna that came with your very expensive handheld??? Me neither, that is until today, it is lashing rain outside, windy and generally miserable, you know the type of day that you do not want to go out but you still need something to occupy your mind!!!

Well I decided to have a look at some of my rubber duck antennas to see which gives the best SWR and hopefully the best performance on my handheld's.

Now as not to pick on only the cheap antennas that I bought from a shop in Hong Kong I have also tested an Icom and Kenwood dual band rubber duck antennas that came with their radios.

Have a look at the photo below and see the results under each antenna.

The test was carried out using 5w on 2m and 70cms.

The 2m frequency was 145.400 and the 70cms frequency was 433.400.







## Excerpts from the HX files

### A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 025

Hello and welcome to Xtract 025 of the HX files.

In this Xtract I would like to talk about a couple of additions made to one of the 10 GHz dishes used when out portable.

This would involve somehow attaching a block of metal to the back of one of the dishes. The metal would be shaped to the same profile as the dish and it would have a telescopic sight and a laser fitted to it.

These attachments would (I hope) help me line up with the other station in the QSO.

The telescopic sight to help line up the other station and the laser would hit the spot of their location or at least very close to it.

#### New Toy

Before talking about the project in this issue of Echo Ireland, I was wondering what project was going to finish first as I was moving from one project to another as the stock pile was missing a few parts for some of them, and not wanting to remove parts from other projects made in earlier issues what was one to do. Then just what I needed, a new project came to the top of the list that pushed the others to the back burner.

I decided to change my car. I had a friend looking out for a car for me and in the



last couple of days of February he found what I was looking for and a new toy was bought.

One job was to take the radios out of the other car and into the new car, (new to me that is) the ATV gear had to be removed and installed also, although not fully installed into the car yet, some of the ATV equipment is in place and just waiting to be connected, as with some cars there are not too many hiding places to place the parts, and it is getting harder to get cables from the car battery to your equipment.

For now only one hole was drilled in the roof for the 2m/70cms aerial and now it is a waiting game to see if a tow bar or a roof rack is purchased to attach anything else. Play time was brought to an abrupt end when our editor let it be known that the deadline was only a couple of days away as I had not noticed the time, so words like gosh and darn were uttered and something had to be finished for Echo Ireland.

#### The Sight

The telescopic sight (photo 1) was bought at a rally in the UK, the trader who I know for many years said that I had the

wrong accent to be buying this sort of thing over here, he did not know what to think when I asked him if he had anything to go under the sight (a rifle).

#### Some Details

The sight is to be mounted above the centre of the dish and the laser is mounted below the sight.

Lining up the sight and laser would not require any high tech equipment, the high-tech thing done in a friends yard was to fire the laser (switch it on) at the wall, mark that spot on the wall with a felt pen, and then using a spirit level I marked a spot on the wall the same distance as the sight is mounted above the dish centre, so in theory the spot on the wall would show where the RF is heading for.

Anyway back to the start of the construction. Using a piece of wood a template was cut out to match the metal, firstly using a fret saw and then finishing it off with some files and sandpaper to get it right.

With that job done it was time to get the shape marked out onto a piece of metal fit enough for the job.

After a bit of a search the block of aluminium was found in the parts bin and the wooden template traced onto the metal block.

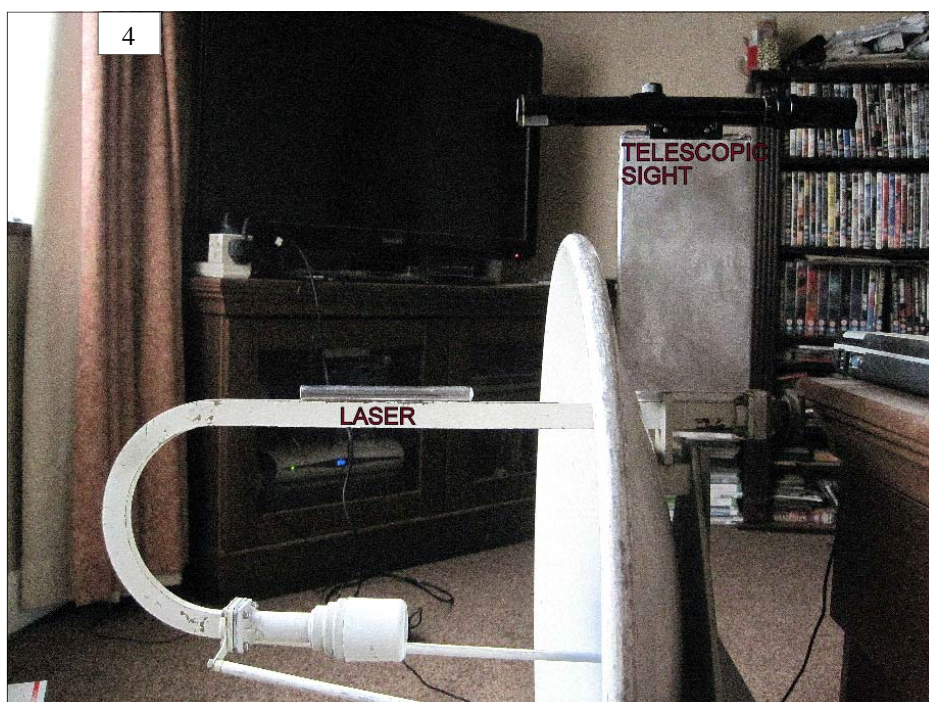
Using a small angle grinder, fitted with a cutting disk, a lot of the unwanted metal was removed and the cutting disk replaced with a grinding disk, this would remove most of the metal and leave a small amount to be filed to the final shape.

#### Ooops

It was while grinding the last of the metal that some of the aluminium dust was sucked into the grinder through the cooling ducts and in an instant the dust ignited and there was a flash and the mains power tripped.

When the power was turned back on I

*(Continued on page 25)*





(Continued from page 24)

found out two things, one that the grinder no longer worked as the aluminium dust had gotten into the workings of the grinder and welded to them, and two, new underwear was needed.

It was while grinding the metal that the dust was hitting the guard behind the vice and unknown to me, some of it was bouncing back towards the grinder and being sucked into its cooling ducts.

With the curve finally right some grooves were cut into both sides of the top of the block so that the sight would slide onto the block of metal for fitting. The laser was to be clamped to the block using some fittings from another project until some were made for it, but the drill bit jammed, snapped and followed by the drill with me holding it and the metal fitting broke.

So some changes had to be made for this issue and not having similar brackets in stock yet, I am just using the smaller laser, or as the trader said, it is an astronomy aide,

When the bracket was finished it had to be attached to the dish but how, not wanting to drill any holes into the dish or the waveguide, after a chat in one of my local hardware stores with members of the staff some adhesive was used and that adhesive is so strong that you would bend the dish rather than break its hold on the parts.

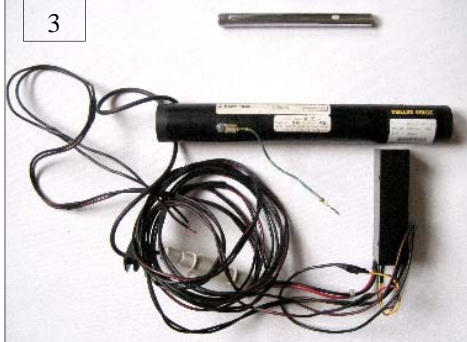
As you can see in photo 3, there is a difference in the sizes of the lasers; the larger of the two is from an old laser printer/copier.

Photo 4 shows the sight in position and the laser just placed on top of the waveguide, it or the larger one will be attached to the plate when the parts are got.

That's it for this issue; see you at the AGM weekend, and may your signals be P5.

73 de Pat.

3



## EI's on EQSL (as at March 23rd 2013)

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

DXCC Confirmed			
245	EI7BA	70	EI6GF
213	EI90 (+1)	69	EI8GP
204	EI7CC (+4)	68	EI8JB
204	EI9FBB	67	EI9GTB (+4)
188	EI3IO	66	EI7IM
187	EI2JD (+1)	65	EI6ARB
182	EI4CF	65	EI8DD
169	EI1DG (+8)	64	EI9FV
165	EI0CZ	64	EI9KB
163	EI2KC	61	EI4IS
161	EI4GJB (+2)	61	EI9JM
158	EI2GLB	60	EI6CPB
157	EI8GS (+4)	59	EI5HE
156	EI3GYB	58	EI5DD (+4)
154	EI7JN	56	EI7BMB
153	EI6JK	55	EI6GGB
152	EI9KC	54	EI4GD (+1)
150	EI9FVB	54	EI7IQ
148	EI9HX	53	EI1509 (+1)
147	EI6IZ	52	EI5GB (+3)
143	EI9E (New)	52	EI8H
139	EI6AL	52	EI8JW
134	EI7JZ (+6)	51	EI2HRB (New)
131	EI8FH	50	EI6AK
130	EI6IL	49	EI1429
130	EI9JU	49	EI2FSB
127	EI6HB	49	EI3HDB (+20)
127	EI8IU	48	EI4GMB
126	EI4HH	47	EI2HGB
124	EI7JK	47	EI3EBB
122	EI8IQ	46	EI7GEB (+3)
121	EI4GNB (+2)	46	EI9GWB
120	EI0W	45	EI1571
116	EI4BZ	44	EI3GD
115	EI5JQ (+4)	44	EI5GN
114	EI9HQ	43	EI4DIB
113	EI3CTB (+7)	43	EI7IS
109	EI5GSB	42	EI5IX
109	EI5IF	42	EI7GM
108	EI3HA	41	EI4IR
107	EI9GLB	41	EI7GBB
105	EI7DAR	40	EI3HBB (New)
104	EI4GXB	40	EI9GGB
103	EI5GM	40	EI9GRB (New)
103	EI5GJB	39	EI4HX
101	EI2II	38	EI2FS
101	EI7GSB	35	EI3GDB
99	EI4KE (+1)	33	EI7CSB (+8)
98	EI0PL	31	EI7GZB
98	EI6GHB (+3)	30	EI7CHB
97	EI3KE (+1)	28	EI4IN
96	EI9CF (+25)	27	EI9CBB
95	EI3GAB (+5)	26	EI3FFB
95	EI5GUB	24	EI8GNB
95	EI8HL	23	EI1627
94	EI7IX	23	EI8JA
93	EI8BLB (+2)	21	EI8GGB
91	EI5HV	Worked All Zones	
90	EI3JB	40	EI0CZ
88	EI8JB (+20)	40	EI2JD (+1)
87	EI4HQ	40	EI4CF
86	EI9ES	40	EI7BA
82	EI5EV	40	EI7JN
82	EI7BFB (+1)	40	EI9O
80	EI4GAB (+9)	40	EI9JU
79	EI8JK	40	EI9FBB
76	EI8JR	39	EI1DG
75	EI9EW	39	EI2GLB
75	EI9GSB	39	EI3IO
74	EI8DL	39	EI4GXB
73	EI6IF	39	EI7CC
71	EI3IS	39	EI7JZ (+1)
71	EI7GUB (New)	39	EI8GS
39	EI9HX	39	EI9HC
39	EI9KC	38	EI3GYB
37	EI4BZ	37	EI4KE
37	EI5IF	37	EI6IL
37	EI6JK	37	EI8FH
36	EI2KC	36	EI4HH
36	EI9FVB	36	EI4GNB
35	EI4GNB	34	EI9GLB (+1)
33	EI5GM	33	EI6AL
33	EI6AL	32	EI0W
32	EI3HA	32	EI5JQ
32	EI7GSB	32	EI8BLB
30	EI5GJB	30	EI5GSB
30	EI5GSB	30	EI5HV (New)
30	EI9HQ		
Worked Prefixes			
1,596	EI4CF (+19)		
1,533	EI9E (New)		
1,400	EI9JU (+48)		
1,398	EI7CC (+36)		
1,322	EI6JK (+54)		
1,295	EI2JD (+6)		
1,280	EI8GS (+24)		
1,187	EI7JN (+14)		
1,174	EI9FBB (+5)		
1,132	EI0W (+20)		
1,128	EI0CZ (+23)		
1,072	EI9HQ (+63)		
1,047	EI4GXB (+20)		
1,037	EI1DG (+46)		
1,002	EI2KC (+18)		
988	EI7JK (+17)		
986	EI2GLB (+42)		
951	EI3IO		
931	EI7BA (+5)		
910	EI9KC (+185)		
860	EI8FH (+19)		
859	EI0PL (+22)		
845	EI4BZ (+13)		
833	EI3CTB (+66)		
806	EI6AL (+10)		
802	EI9FVB (+13)		
790	EI4GNB (+13)		
784	EI7GSB (+28)		
756	EI2II (+33)		
705	EI9O (+6)		
694	EI5IF (+5)		
683	EI7JZ (+56)		
645	EI8JB (+4)		
638	EI3GYB (+14)		
636	EI8IQ (+8)		
625	EI5GSB (+15)		
607	EI4GAB (+42)		
606	EI5GM (+4)		
570	EI9JM (+3)		
560	EI3JB (+38)		
558	EI3GAB (+57)		
557	EI5GJB (+7)		
538	EI8IU (+7)		
543	EI8HL (+18)		
525	EI8BLB (+55)		
508	EI4KE (+17)		
483	EI3HA (+15)		

# Contest Corner

By  
Thos Caffrey EI2JD

Congratulations to all who took part in the 80m Counties Contest in early January. Thanks to all who submitted logs.

We are still having problems with some logs but there was a big improvement this time around. Remember that for all future IRTS Contests, logs have to be submitted within 14 days after the contest.

The next IRTS event will be the CW Field Day over the June bank holiday weekend and we really need a few more entries to keep this one alive.

The Summer 80m counties contest will be held on Sunday June 23rd with a 1400 start and it will finish at 1700.

After that we have the VHF/UHF Field Day on July 6/7th and remember that you can enter any single band in this one.

The SSB Field is held over the first weekend in September, this year on the 7/8th and we hear several groups are planning to travel to Ballinasloe for this one.

Don't miss the Shannon Basin Club's Barbeque on the Saturday night.

A few groups have announced plans to travel to islands for the IOTA Contest on July 27/28th and the EI records on the next page should help you decide on what section to enter.

There are quite a few sections that never had entries.

Good contesting,  
Thos EI2JD

## 80m Counties Contest

Thanks to the following for check logs  
EI0B  
EI9O  
EI4IR  
EI6IL  
MI0MSR

## Results 80m Counties January 2013

1. SSB Fixed			QSO's	Cntys	Points	QTH
*EI*	EI13CLAN	IRTS - Op EI2JD Thos	114	26	8112	LOU
	EI6JK	Mark Condon	101	24	6960	ROS
	EI2GLB	Trevor Dunne	114	22	6864	KLD
	EI4GXB	Ger McNamara	81	25	6600	CLA
	EI8BLB	Liam Grant	93	22	6006	KLK
	EI2KD	Rodney Roulston	84	23	5727	DON
	EI7CC	Peter Bell	68	24	5520	DUB
	EI9GTB	Brian Cowley	71	23	5129	LOU
	EI7CD	Sean Nolan	70	22	5038	DUB
*OEI*	GI0LEC	Lough Erne ARC	74	21	4893	FER
	EI9FVB	Declan Horan	69	21	4851	COR
	MI0TMW	Merv Wylie	72	23	4784	ANT
	EI2HSB	Denis Drennan	71	21	4578	KLK
	EI8IQ	Pat Whitty	74	20	4360	WEX
	EI9CN	Larry McGriskin	52	21	4053	GAL
	EI2II	Enda Broderick	55	21	3990	GAL
	M0DDT	Colin Potter	44	22	3872	G
	EI9GGB	Michael Fitzgerald	55	20	3820	WEX
	EI5FQB	Clifford Beck	52	22	3784	OFF
	G8MIA	Andy Malbon	43	22	3784	G
	G6MC	Neil Clarke	48	21	3717	G
	EI3HDB	Alan Buckley	46	21	3486	WEX
	EI3ENB	Paul Norris	42	21	3276	KLK
	MI0RRE	Robbie Rantin	50	19	3230	ARM
	EI7GK	Pádraig Ó Meachair	41	20	2980	WIC
	EI2NCR	Skerries Radio Club	40	20	2960	DUB
	EI2HRB	Lee P. McGuire	49	18	2934	WEX
	GW4EVX	Ron Vine	38	19	2888	GW
	EI2CL	Michael McNamara	38	19	2660	DUB
	M0XDX	Paul Dumbleton	32	17	2176	G
	G4IDF	Dave Hobro	30	18	2160	G
	MI5MTC	Michael Clarke	36	16	1952	FER
	GI4AAM	Bill Langtry	29	17	1870	DOW
	EI7GEB	David Morgan	28	17	1802	MEA
	EI3GGB	Robert O'Sullivan	25	16	1552	COR
	EI2WRC	South Eastern ARG	28	14	1512	WAT
	EI6CZ	Rolande Hall	28	14	1484	CLA
	M6KVJ	David Boyes	24	15	1440	G
	MI0DWE	David Eames	24	14	1344	FER
	2I0EKN	William Martin	23	12	996	FER
	G8AFN	Peter Cleall	16	9	576	G
	M1JJK	John Kelly	10	7	280	G
2. SSB/CW Fixed						
*EI*	EI2KA	Tim McKnight	73	23	5474	COR
	EI6GF	Michael McLoughlin	78	21	5061	WEX
	EI9KC	Ark Szpunar	65	21	4704	KLD
	EI4BZ	Dave Moore	48	21	3591	COR
	EI5KF	Gerard Scannell	54	19	3420	COR
*OEI*	G3RXQ	Stewart Baker	36	19	2736	G
	GI4SRQ	George McHugh	36	16	2208	ARM
	MI0RYL	Bobby Wadey	20	12	960	ARM
	DK2CF	Andreas Schmid	19	12	912	DL
3. SSB Portable						
*EI*	EI0M/P	Mayo REN	54	22	4158	MAY
4. SSB/CW Portable						
	EI9FBB/P	David Deane	69	23	5658	KER
	EI7GY/P	Joe Ryan	72	21	5040	WIC
5. SWL			No Entry			





# Islands on the Air Contest EI Records (inc. 2012)

Unassisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, High Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed	EI5DI	1,422,330	1,445	182	2010	
CW	EI4BZ	477,480	660	115	2001	
SSB	EI8IR	2,546,061	2,091	217	2004	

Unassisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, Low Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB	<b>EI1A</b>	<b>1,820,780</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>2012</b>	

Unassisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, QRP, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Unassisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, High Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
CW	EI4DW	181,944	382	76	2002	
SSB	EI7GL	612,456	424	151	2001	

Unassisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, Low Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed	EI8GS	446,124	970	94	2007	
CW	EI4CF	365,148	511	108	2009	
SSB	EI4GXB	380,352	380	112	2009	

Unassisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, QRP, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
CW	EI8FH	11,730	62	23	2010	
SSB						

Assisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, High Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed	EI2JD	2,909,280	1,620	290	2009	
<b>CW</b>	<b>EI7KD</b>	<b>4,593,920</b>	<b>2,138</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>2012</b>	
SSB	EI9HX	1,177,176	1,200	154	2009	

Assisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, Low Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
<b>CW</b>	<b>EI8JX</b>	<b>332,250</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2012</b>	
<b>SSB</b>	<b>EI7JZ</b>	<b>457,240</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>2012</b>	

Assisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, QRP, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Assisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, High Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed	EI3IO	456,492	584	109	2008	
CW						
SSB						

Assisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, Low Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
<b>CW</b>	<b>EI/W5GN</b>	<b>589,260</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>2012</b>	
SSB	EI3HA	71,736	167	56	2008	

Assisted, Fixed, Single-Operator, QRP, 12 Hour						
Mixed	EI8JB	33,264	96	36	2010	
CW						
SSB						

DXpedition, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour,						
High Power	EJ2MT	10,202,165	3,209	505	2005	
Low Power	EJ1DD	2,262,708	1,441	252	2009	

Fixed, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour,						
High Power	EI7M	6,194,952	2,632	417	2002	
Low Power						

Unassisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, High Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Unassisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, Low Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed	EI9JQ	884,856	788	161	2007	
CW						
SSB						

Unassisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, QRP, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Unassisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, High Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Unassisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, Low Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
<b>CW</b>	<b>EI5KF/P</b>	<b>61,500</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2012</b>	
SSB	EI5JQ/P	78,660	172	57	2010	

Unassisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, QRP, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
CW	EJ2KF	1,428	40	7	2011	
SSB						

Assisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, High Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Assisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, Low Power, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Assisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, QRP, 24 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Assisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, High Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Assisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, Low Power, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

Assisted, DXpedition, Single-Op, QRP, 12 Hour						
Mixed						
CW						
SSB						

## VHF/UHF Squares Table 2012

Callsign	50MHz	70MHz	144MHz	432MHz	1296MHz	10GHz	Totals
EI4DQ	184	121	94	0	0	0	399
EI4GXB	315	0	5	0	0	0	320
EI9FBB	282	0	0	0	0	0	282
EI3GYB	169	67	11	1	0	0	248
EI8IQ	70	110	51	2	0	0	233
EI7BA	134	23	6	0	0	0	163
EI2KC	148	0	0	0	0	0	148
EI3GAB	144	0	2	0	0	0	146
EI2II	116	0	6	0	0	0	122
EI2GLB	66	28	2	0	0	0	96
EI7IX	82	10	0	0	0	0	92
EI3KD	0	0	79	0	0	0	79
EI9HC	76	0	0	0	0	0	76
EI4GHB	0	0	31	4	0	0	35
EI9HQ	35	0	0	0	0	0	35

Please send your updates to the VHF Manager, EI2GLB@hotmail.com

## IRTS Awards Nominations.

The time is here again for nominations for the several awards for IRTS Trophies and cups that are required from within the membership, this includes the awards for;

1. Service to the Society or to Amateur Radio  
Awards in this category can be to members or non-members.
2. Awards for other achievements.  
Awards in this category [2] include the 4 and 6 Meter Shields, the SWL Award, and the awards for Quality Construction Projects.  
These are confined to members only.

When considering your nominations, please refer to previous successful winners as included in [www.irts.ie/cgi/awards.cgi](http://www.irts.ie/cgi/awards.cgi)

Nominations may be from Clubs or individuals, must be by post or e-mail, and should be forwarded to:

The Awards Committee Members,  
Pat EI2HX and Pat EI9HX,  
or to Peter Grant EI4HX,  
Chair of Awards Committee,  
QTHR, or by e-mail to  
[ei4hexperimental@eircom.net](mailto:ei4hexperimental@eircom.net).

## Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

### April 2013

1	Mon 1500 - Mon 1700	<b>IRTS 2m Counties Contest</b>	FM/SSB
06-07	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
13-14	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest	CW
13-13	Sat 1600 - Sat 1959	EU Sprint Spring	CW
19-20	Fri 2100 - Sat 2100	Holyland DX Contest	ALL
20-20	Sat 1600 - Sat 1959	EU Sprint Spring	CW
27-28	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	Helvetia DX Contest	ALL

### May 2013

04-05	Sat 1200 - Sun 1159	ARI International DX Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
11-12	Sat 1200 - Sun 1159	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW/SSB
18-19	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	European PSK DX Contest	BPSK63
18-19	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The King of Spain Contest	CW
25-26	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQWW WPX Contest	CW

### June 2013

01-02	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	<b>IRTS CW Field Day</b>	CW
15-16	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	All Asian DX Contest	CW
22-23	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The King of Spain Contest	SSB
23	Sun 1400 - Sun 1700	<b>IRTS 80m Counties</b>	CW/SSB
30-31	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQWW WPX Contest	SSB

## Radio News Input

**Before 1200 on Thursdays  
to  
[newsteam@irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie)**

## Outgoing QSL Bureau Address

**Tony Baldwin EI8JK,  
Rathlin,  
Kilcrohane,  
Bantry,  
Co. Cork.**



# EI DXCC Listings (as at March 25th 2013)

<b>Mixed</b>	204	EI4BZ	<b>40m</b>	110	EI1DG (+10)
362 EI8H	200	EI6IL	308 EI7BA	105	EI3GV
353 EI7CC	192	EI4HH	242 EI9FBB	101	EI4BZ
351 EI6S	188	EI2CH	199 EI2JD		
348 EI6FR	186	EI7II	<b>197 EI6FR (+3)</b>	<b>15m</b>	
<b>345 EI8EM (New)</b>	<b>185 EI9E (+7)</b>	190 EI6IZ	185 EI3IO	323 EI7BA	
343 EI7BA	178 EI3HA	185 EI3IO	274 EI6FR (+6)	260 EI9FBB	
340 EI2GS	177 EI9FE	177 EI9JF	<b>227 EI2JD (+3)</b>	204 EI3IO	
326 EI3IO	175 EI8IU	139 EI4BZ	191 EI4BZ	183 EI2GLB (+14)	
318 EI9FBB	<b>164 EI7JZ (+9)</b>	129 EI8GS	<b>182 EI9FVB (+15)</b>	181 EI6IZ	
<b>307 EI9O (+6)</b>	160 EI2II	<b>123 EI9E (+5)</b>	181 EI8GS	<b>170 EI9E (+7)</b>	
306 EI2HY	<b>160 EI6HB (+18)</b>	117 EI7GL	<b>157 EI1DG (+12)</b>	136 EI6HB	
<b>301 EI5GM (+6)</b>	155 EI5IF	106 EI7GY	125 EI7GY	123 EI6AL	
292 EI2JD	142 EI9HQ	<b>105 EI9FVB (+1)</b>	120 EI4GJB	117 EI8IU	
287 EI4II	131 EI5GSB		112 EI3GV	109 EI7JN	
287 EI9JF	130 EI6AL	<b>30m</b>	106 EI7JZ (+4)	105 EI9JF	
283 EI6IZ	118 EI5FQB	319 EI7BA	<b>103 EI4GK (New)</b>		
269 EI2CR	114 EI8FH	234 EI9FBB			
269 EI8GS	105 EI1CS	223 EI3IO			
<b>266 EI2GLB (+20)</b>	102 EI4DJB	<b>200 EI6IZ (+1)</b>			
263 EI4BZ	101 EI3IP	<b>192 EI6FR (+1)</b>			
262 EI2GX	101 EI4GNB	167 EI9JF			
<b>257 EI9FVB (+11)</b>	100 EI3GAB	131 EI7GY			
243 EI8FH	<b>CW</b>	<b>122 EI2JD (+1)</b>			
<b>239 EI1DG (+4)</b>	334 EI7BA	120 EI4BZ			
236 EI8IU	329 EI7CC	105 EI8IU			
<b>230 EI4GXB (+32)</b>	<b>314 EI6FR (+3)</b>				
222 EI7GY	295 EI9FBB	<b>20m</b>			
210 EI6IL	<b>275 EI2JD (+2)</b>	337 EI7BA			
209 EI7JN	274 EI6IZ	<b>320 EI6FR (+3)</b>			
<b>207 EI9GLB (+12)</b>	253 EI9JF	301 EI9FBB			
205 EI4HH	242 EI4BZ	<b>254 EI2JD (+1)</b>			
205 EI6AL	233 EI8FH	251 EI3IO			
196 EI5IF	212 EI7GY	217 EI9JF			
<b>192 EI9E (+8)</b>	<b>209 EI2GLB (+33)</b>	211 EI8GS			
191 EI6HB	197 EI8IU	206 EI6IZ			
182 EI3HA	<b>194 EI1DG (+4)</b>	<b>206 EI9FVB (+13)</b>			
<b>174 EI7JZ (+13)</b>	190 EI6AL	193 EI4BZ			
<b>152 EI4IR (+12)</b>	<b>187 EI5GM (+5)</b>	<b>177 EI2GLB (+16)</b>			
150 EI9HQ	158 EI8JX	<b>176 EI1DG (+2)</b>			
135 EI9CF	127 EI9CF	171 EI7JN			
131 EI5GSB	109 EI2IH	<b>154 EI9E (+10)</b>			
129 EI5GUB	<b>109 EI4HM (New)</b>	145 EI6HB			
128 EI8HA	104 EI4HH	144 EI4GJB			
127 EI9CJ	104 EI6HB	136 EI7GY			
118 EI5FQB	100 EI3KG	128 EI8IU			
115 EI5JQ	<b>100 EI9E (New)</b>	126 EI3GV			
101 EI7JQ	<b>RTTY/Digital</b>	122 EI5IF			
101 EI8JB	275 EI7BA	121 EI3HA			
100 EI3CTB	<b>208 EI1DG (+4)</b>	<b>119 EI7JZ (+6)</b>			
100 EI3GAB	<b>169 EI6FR (+8)</b>	<b>116 EI9GLB (+8)</b>			
100 EI4HQ	<b>153 EI2GLB (+11)</b>	112 EI8IQ			
<b>Phone</b>	121 EI6HB	112 EI9HQ			
351 EI7CC	104 EI5IF	<b>109 EI4GK (New)</b>			
348 EI6S	102 EI8FH	105 EI2II			
<b>345 EI8EM (+1)</b>		102 EI5GSB			
340 EI7BA	<b>160m</b>	102 EI6AL			
338 EI2GS	232 EI7BA				
331 EI8AR	212 EI3IO	<b>17m</b>			
330 EI6FR	<b>135 EI6IZ (+4)</b>	332 EI7BA			
303 EI3GV	133 EI9FBB	274 EI9FBB			
301 EI9FBB	<b>120 EI2JD (+3)</b>	<b>234 EI6FR (+11)</b>			
300 EI8AU		<b>187 EI2JD (+1)</b>			
<b>290 EI4GK (+11)</b>	<b>80m</b>	<b>175 EI6IZ (+2)</b>			
<b>277 EI2JD (+1)</b>	304 EI6S	146 EI9JF			
269 EI8GS	287 EI7BA	<b>139 EI9FVB (+7)</b>			
264 EI9HX	228 EI9FBB	<b>132 EI2GLB (+26)</b>			
<b>257 EI9FVB (+11)</b>	<b>164 EI2JD (+1)</b>	132 EI7GY			
225 EI9JF	142 EI3IO	129 EI3IO			
<b>216 EI2GLB (+20)</b>	<b>135 EI6FR (+1)</b>	127 EI4GJB			
213 EI7GL	<b>129 EI6IZ (+2)</b>	127 EI6AL			
208 EI4GJB	119 EI4BZ	125 EI8IU			
<b>207 EI9GLB (+12)</b>	103 EI8GS				

DXCC Honor Roll		DXCC Challenge	
<b>Mixed</b>		2,800	EI7BA
340	EI6FR/348	2,217	EI9FBB
338	EI7BA/343	1,850	EI3IO
338	EI7CC/353	<b>1,714 EI6FR (+30)</b>	
337	EI8EM/345	<b>1,699 EI2JD (+13)</b>	
334	EI8H/362	1,654	EI7CC
332	EI6S/351	<b>1,160 EI2GLB (New)</b>	
332	EI2GS/340	<b>1,492 EI6IZ (+13)</b>	
<b>Phone</b>		<b>1,112 EI4BZ (+56)</b>	
337	EI8EM/345	<b>1,018 EI9FVB (New)</b>	
336	EI7CC/351	1,018	EI9JF
335	EI7BA/340		
331	EI6S/348		

DXCC Single Band Status (25/03/13)		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2
10	EI9FBB	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
10	EI3IO	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
10	EI2JD	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
9	EI6IZ	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
9	EI7BA	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
8	EI6FR	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
7	EI4BZ	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
6	EI2GLB	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
6	EI9FVB	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI4GJB	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI6AL	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI7GY	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	-	-	-	-
5	EI8GS	-	80	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
5	EI9JF	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	-	-	-	-
4	EI1DG	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
4	EI3GV	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
4	EI8IU	-	-	-	30	20	17	15	-	-	-	-
4	EI9E	-	-	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI4GK	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI6HB	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI7GL	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-
2	EI2II	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	10	-	-
2	EI7JN	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-
2	EI7JZ	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-
1	EI3EBB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
1	EI3HA	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI4DQ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	EI4HH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1	EI5GSB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI5IF	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI6S	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI8IQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI9CJ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1	EI9GLB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI9HQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2

## Irish Hour on 15m

A recent communication from Brian Stapleton W7DFO reminds Irish amateurs that the Irish Hour Net takes place on Sundays at 1700 UTC on 21.317 MHz.

Brian chairs the weekly Net, but from his QTH in the Pacific North West, it has become what he refers to as a "challenge".

Although many of the call-ins to the net are from licensed Irish-Americans, there is a standing invitation to EIs or GIs to participate.



## EI80IRTS Award

Over 25,000 QSOs were made by EI80IRTS during 2012 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of IRTS.

Awards are available for working the callsign on different bands as follows:

3	Bronze
5	Silver
8	Gold

Check your log and see if you qualified.

Award applications should be sent to: Thos Caffrey EI2JD QTHR.

Full details on [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie)

## Transmission Sites Wanted

Dear Readers,

I am writing this in the hope that some members may be able to help me.

I am director of an alarm company based in Wicklow town and I am involved with an alarm monitoring centre based in Dublin.

Because of the availability of low cost GSM signal blocking devices and their use in large scale robberies we are now expanding our secure radio network so that monitored alarm systems are not solely dependant on landlines which are easily cut.

Our radio monitoring system operates on VHF and is fully licensed by ComReg.

It allows a secure route for alarm signals to be received in our monitoring centre.

Enough of the background!

I am now on the great position of being able to expand our radio network outside of the greater Dublin area and hope to go for national coverage in the next twelve months.

I am now looking for suitable sites for installing repeaters to extend our coverage and in particular in the Leinster region, concentrating on the Wicklow/Wexford areas and currently looking for a suitable site to give coverage into the Red Cross area in Co. Wicklow.

I hope some amateurs may be willing to allow a ten watt Tx/Rx to be installed on their masts or sites if they are in suitable locations?

Obviously we can talk monetary awards or free alarm installation or something in between.....

If you think you have a suitable site please get in touch.

Iain Fisher EI5GN

[Office@avengeralarms.ie](mailto:Office@avengeralarms.ie)

086-8057242

## North Cork Radio Group Annual Radio Rally & Electronics Fair Sunday, 15th September 2013

**The Roebuck Room, Commons Inn,  
New Mallow Road,  
Blackpool, Cork**

**Doors open at 1100 and admission is €5 per person  
(children are free).**

**Raffle tickets will also be available at the door.**

**The usual traders will be present and anyone wishing to reserve  
a table or interested in setting up a stall, should contact**

**Edwin Van Mierlo EI2HEB**

**on 086-3885741**

**or via email at [ei2heb@ei1nc.com](mailto:ei2heb@ei1nc.com)**



## Members Free Advertisements

### For Sale:

Icom IC775dsp ..... €2,000.00  
 Icom IC746 ..... €650.00  
 Icom IC706 MK1 ..... €400.00  
 Icom SP20 ..... €150.00  
 Yaesu FT1000 with BPF-1 fitted  
 ..... €1,500.00  
 Yaesu FT101ZD MK3.  
 One owner totally original ..... €500.00  
 Yaesu FL7000 Amplifier  
 4 button model ..... €1,500.00  
 Yaesu FT5 ..... €150.00  
 Kenwood TS870S  
 with PS52 and SP31 ..... €1,400.00  
 Kenwood TS140 ..... €400.00  
 AOR AR3000A ..... €400.00  
 Realistic DX 394 ..... €100.00  
 Ameritron ATR30 new ..... €500.00  
 Alinco DR130  
 Alinco DJV5  
 Alinco DJS11  
 Telereader CWR-6850 ..... €400.00  
 President Lincoln ..... €200.00  
 80mt 4 square Hybrid Coupler new  
 ..... €600.00  
 Low Band 4 square receive array system.  
 New. Complete package ..... €1,600.00  
 100ft free standing commercial tower  
 ..... €1,500.00  
 Contact Peter EI2IU  
 Ph. 087-0519051

### For Sale:

Optibeam 9-5 Beam 5 HF Bands on one  
 feed line with 3kw Balun ..... €750.00  
 Yaesu FT 1000MP with stock mic, man-  
 ual & boxes ..... €50.00  
 Yaesu FT 847 late model C2 version with  
 the additional internal 4m preamp fitted  
 & adjusted covers HF, 6m, 4m 2m &  
 70cms SATS etc, Stock Mic,  
 Boxed with Manual ..... €900.00  
 Yaesu FC-20 HF Auto tuner that matches  
 the FT 847 ..... €80.00  
 Ameritron RCS-8V. Remote Coax  
 Switch box, 5 antennas to one feed line  
 coming to shack + 140 feet of control  
 cable ..... €150.00  
 Timewave 59+DSP Filter ..... €80.00  
 Yaesu G-5600 AZ/EL  
 (Rotator controller only) ..... €100.00  
 Kenpro KR-500 Elevation  
 (Controller Only) ..... €60.00  
 Arrow II Satellite 2m/70cms Portable  
 Yagi, with built in duplexer and split  
 boom ..... €100.00  
 SSB Electronics Sequencer DCW15-SHF  
 ..... €60.00

Items if not sold before hand may be  
 available at the AGM/Rally.  
 I can be contacted at  
[charlie.carolan@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.carolan@gmail.com)  
 or on 087-6265418.

### For Sale:

Icom IC-R1500 P.W.O. Boxed plus  
 Scanmaster SP-55 preamp ..... €400.00  
 Global SW/ATU AT-1000 ..... €50.00  
 2 metre Co-linear never used ..... €50.00  
 Log Periodic MLP32. 100-1300MHz  
 TX on 2m,70cms and 23cms ..... €50.00  
 Contact Joe EI4GX on 085-1601372 or  
 01-8364434 evenings

### For Sale:

Clearstone CM7200 4m AM/FM trans-  
 ceiver. Covers 69.900 to 70.500 in 5 and  
 12.5k steps. 10/25 watt. Remote control  
 head with large LCD. .... €70.00  
 Can swap for Ascom SE550 2m version.  
 Icom IC-R7000 Communications  
 Receiver in GWO ..... €250.00  
 President Lincoln just serviced at Presi-  
 dent Europe VGC ..... €160.00  
 Can px for Barrett 2050 line compatible  
 gear.

Contact [ei7gmb@yahoo.com](mailto:ei7gmb@yahoo.com)

### For Sale:

Drake TR7A-with all extras, together  
 with Drake RV7.  
 Drake TR4Cw with AC4 PSU rebuilt,  
 plus spare valves.  
 Drake L7 Linear amp. 2000 w input with  
 L7 PSU.  
 Microwave Modules 144MHz Linear 100  
 watt.

Thandor Frequency Counter.  
 Icom 271E 144Mhz Multimode Trans-  
 ceiver.  
 Johnson Matchbox Viking, link coupled  
 balanced tuner.  
 Heathkit AF Generator.  
 Contact John EI8AR 0863762217 or  
[ei8ar@eircom.net](mailto:ei8ar@eircom.net)

### IRCs for Sale.

Peter EI7CC has a quantity of IRCs for  
 sale at €1 each. If interested please  
 contact him at [ei7cc@oceanfree.net](mailto:ei7cc@oceanfree.net).

IRCs can be posted directly or collected  
 from EI7CC who will be in Athlone over  
 the AGM weekend.



## Bangor and District ARS Radio and Computer Rally

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Donaghadee Community Centre  
 Donaghadee, County Down BT21

Starts at 1130 Admission £3.00

Plenty of attractions include : Special interest stands, BDARS Slideshow, Tearcraft  
 Stall, Barnes Books and a good selection of radio and computer traders

Information and a map is available at our website [www.bdars.com](http://www.bdars.com)

Contact Bill GI4AAM for further details:

Tel: 028 9181 6707

Email: [bill.langtry@btinternet.com](mailto:bill.langtry@btinternet.com)

## Echo Ireland

Wanted Contributors for  
 Space matters  
 VHF & Up

Email to [ei4bz@eircom.net](mailto:ei4bz@eircom.net)

# South East Communications

**Amateur Radio  
Marine VHF  
Shortwave Receivers  
Scanning Receivers  
GPS Systems  
Accessories**



**Gary O'Hanlon,  
Ashbury House,  
Dunmore East,  
Co. Waterford.  
Tel: 051-385853  
087-2513772**

## Used Equipment - All prices for straight sales

Alinco DX-70 TH .....	€99.00
Alinco DX-SR8E. Latest HF Rig from Alinco. New .....	€99.00
Antron 99 Fibreglass Base Antenna, 10/12m.....	€89.00
AnyTone AT-5555 10/11 Metre Mobile Transceiver. New.....	€139.00
AOR 3000. All Mode Receiver. 0-2036MHZ. Good Condition.....	€49.00
AOR 3030. 0-30 MHz Rx. Mint condition.....	€49.00
AOR SDU 5000. Spectrum Display Unit. As new condition .....	€99.00
Diamond SX-400 SWR Meter. 2m/70cms. 200w .....	€85.00
Garmin GPSMAP 76. Boxed as new condition .....	€99.00
Heil Pro-Set Elite with Yaesu lead .....	€99.00
Icom AT-230. Matching ATU for IC-7000. ....	€99.00
Icom SP-21. Matching speaker for IC-7400, IC-756 etc. ....	€85.00
Icom IC-706 MkII HF to 70cms, Boxed, in good condition .....	€99.00
Icom IC-7000. HF to 70cms. Mobile. ....	€1,099.00
Icom IC-7400. HF +6m+2m. Auto ATU. Boxed. Mint .....	€1,299.00
Icom IC-7800. Icom's flagship. Boxed as new. One owner .....	Call
Icom ICR-8500. 0-2000MHz. All Mode Communication Rx .....	€1,199.00
Icom UT-106. DSP Unit for IC-706 etc. ....	€75.00
Kenwood AT-230. 200w Manual ATU.....	€175.00
Kenwood LF-30A.. Low Pass filter, up top 1Kw.....	€49.00
Kenwood MC-80. Desk mike for all Kenwood radios.....	€79.00
Kenwood R-2000. 0-30MHz with VHF converter fitted.....	€99.00
Kenwood THD7E. 2m/70cms. APRS Ready Handheld .....	€49.00
Kenwood THF7E Dual band H/H transceiver with 0-1300MHz Rx .....	€99.00
Kenwood TS-480HX. Auto ATU. 100w .....	€99.00
Kenwood TS-570DGE. Auto ATU, DSP 100w. Good Condition.....	€99.00
Kenwood TS-2000. HF-70cms. Auto ATU, DSP, 3 yrs old.....	€1,099.00
MFJ 204B. Antenna Bridge in good condition.....	€50.00
MFJ 214. Amplifier Saver .....	€50.00
MFJ 936B. Loop Antenna Tuner.....	€99.00
MFJ-949E. 2300w manual ATU. Crossed needle meters .....	€49.00
MFJ-991B. 300w Auto ATU. Cross needle meters .....	€99.00
Palstar AA30. Active Antenna for SWL's .....	€49.00
Realistic PRO 2006 400 channel. 25-1300MHz .....	€49.00
Sirio 827. 10/12 metre 5/8 vertical .....	€99.00
Tokyo Hi-Power HL-700B. 600w PEP Solid state amp 0-30MHz.....	€99.00
Vectronics VDLP-300. As new ATU/Dummy load. Boxed, mint.....	€49.00
Yaesu VX-170. 2m handheld + charger .....	€79.00
Yaesu FT-857D. HF to 70cms. 100w mobile.....	€99.00
Yaesu FT-897. HF-70cms. Boxed, As new .....	€49.00
Yaesu FT-900AT. 100w. Auto ATU, All Mode .....	€49.00
Yaesu VX3E. Dual band extra compact handheld .....	€99.00
Watson Hunter Frequency Counter with charger. New .....	€65.00

\*\*\*Special Offer\*\*

Nevada PSW-50. 50A switched mode power supply ..... only €149.00



## Kenwood TS-990

**New flagship radio from Kenwood**

**Price just released. - €7,799.00**

**Place your order now.**

## Special Offer! 100m RG213

**Mil Spec - €69.00 Includes delivery anywhere in EI**

## Special Offer

**Diamond BB7V 6.5m vertical**

**2 - 30MHz. No radials €439.00**

***Large Discounts  
for the AGM Rally  
in Athlone***

***Look forward  
to seeing you there***



MFJ-969 ATU



MFJ-949E ATU

***We stock a wide range of used equipment  
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Kenwood, Alinco, Wason, Cushcraft, MFJ,  
Diamond, Uniden Radios  
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## Yaesu FT-5000D.

**Yaesu's dream machine now available.**



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